





## Soviet life behind locked doors

The document of the Movement for Socialist Renewal of the USSR (July 27) may contain "references" available only at top levels of "Soviet officialdom," but the reality of life in the USSR has been clear to many ordinary Soviet workers for years, without any need for such official data, and they have been gaoled for voicing their concerns.

One such Soviet worker, Oleg Vladimirovich Alifanov, portrayed the life of the average citizen of the USSR in full actuality, in a letter to the Soviet Politburo in May 1985. Without any need for "sources," he described the corruption, brutality and injustice of

Soviet society, especially to workers, women and those of low status, in graphic detail, and he noted the need for reforms to deal with the problems, many of which appear to be officially sanctioned. For the "crime" of highlighting the appalling living conditions of the bulk of Soviet people he was arrested on July 30 1985 and faces the prospect of 12 years' imprisonment.

In his letter Alifanov wrote "Public life here is a lot like Moscow's stores. There are enough of them, but only one is open, and only partially. The Party does not want to know anything about open doors." It is clear that the vast majority of ordinary people have

no opportunity to participate in the "Soviet reform movement," and are imprisoned and persecuted, even today, for making any contribution, however constructive, to the very limited debate.

If the problems of the USSR are acknowledged frankly at the highest levels of Soviet society, as Martin Walker's interpretation of the statement of the Movement for Socialist Renewal would imply, then they must logically accept that they must cease to manage a system that sets out to destroy brave individuals, like Alifanov.

This system based on "hypocrisy, subservience, disrespect for laws and lack of soul" (Alifanov's words) is strongly exemplified by the contrast between the fate of the majority who dare to criticise, who end up sharing Oleg Alifanov's punishment, and the apparent treatment of the Movement for Socialist Renewal.

Basic human rights, including the right to criticise the government, must be restored to all, regardless of status, colour or creed, and not merely given to a handful of CPSU officials.

Robert Chambers, Secretary General (British Section), International Society for Human Rights, London SW11.

## Misguided thinking behind student loans

As James Lewis points out (The Week in Britain, June 29), Mr Kenneth Baker's argument concerning the replacement of student grants with student loans fails to take into account rising unemployment amongst British graduates, poor pay for some of those who do find jobs, and the potentially detrimental effect of a loan system on the humanities. As British graduates reading for our respective postgraduate degrees in the United States we would like to add a couple more points in support of Mr Lewis.

Mr Baker's contention that loans are readily acceptable in countries such as the USA fails to address two crucial issues. First, it fails to take into account that even if loans are "readily acceptable" in other countries this does not mean that the system is unproblematic. Second, there are profound differences between the UK and the USA which render his comparison meaningless. One might imagine a situation, even in the States, where the prospect of loan repayment might easily preclude, and would certainly dissuade, the children of underprivileged families from continuing into higher education. How much more so would this be true of a loan system in Britain, where attitudes towards higher education, especially, though not uniquely, among the underprivileged, are already so much more negative than they are in America? Mr Baker's comparison overlooks the fact that in Britain aspiration is much more heavily

determined and delimited by class position. The ideology of rags to riches and the belief in the ubiquitous potential for financial success pervades American thinking profoundly, whilst in Britain such attitudes are more conspicuous by their absence.

In conclusion, we would like to add that British postgraduate students here are already seeing the results of our present government's policies. More and more frequently we come across other British doctoral students obliged to continue their education in the States because of grant cuts at home; more and more frequently we come across other foreign nationals obliged to choose an American education over a British one due to increased and prohibitive fees in the UK. British education is considered less prestigious, less desirable than it was five years ago, and this trend is increasing.

Mr Baker's new, or renewed, proposal seems to us to exhibit a sad and misguided determination to follow the same short-sighted, and in the long term, utterly destructive educational policies which we have come to expect from the this Conservative government.

Susan Bruce (BA Cantab) Department of English, Matthew Reynolds (BA Oxon) Department of Agriculture, Naomi Wray (BSc Edin) Department of Animal Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853.

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## Why the Commonwealth is still necessary

In his article "The Imperial Guard" (July 27) John Cunningham quotes me (correctly) as saying that I saw the Commonwealth as something of a wasting asset. I would not like it to be thought that I would not deeply regret the demise of the Commonwealth, or that I see it as inevitable.

I felt that in some ways the article was less than fair both to Britain and to our partners. The network of contacts established in so many fields is not just a neo-colonialist effort by Britain to maintain influence on the cheap. It serves as a series of links between fellow professionals and is often more productive than the political set-pieces.

Nor do I think it fair to present the ministerial meetings as simply ego-trips for the overseas participants. That is surely to adopt the patronising tone of which Britain is accused in the article.

When there is no longer any effective forum for the North-South dialogue, it is important to preserve one body which, for all its imperfections, does provide an opportunity for exchanges between Britain and the Third World, and to prevent us becoming simply a Eurocentric power obsessed with our own problems.

But if the Commonwealth is to survive, it must do so on the basis of reality and a clearer perception of mutual interests. Our partners must recognise the limits on the power and influence that we can exercise as a middle-rank state in economic decline.

It is not helpful for a British Prime Minister to appear to be totally impervious to the strongly held views of a majority of the Commonwealth, but nor is it for them to issue threats and ultimatums whenever a crisis occurs.

The transformation by peaceful means of a worldwide Empire into a voluntary association of nations has been one of the greatest achievements of statecraft of our century. It would be a tragedy if it was now to be negated by lack of vision and an unwillingness to seek honest compromises.

The problem of South Africa can only be solved if people of different races and cultures can find a way of living and working together. It would be tragic indeed if that issue were to destroy the institution which has epitomised this: the Commonwealth.

(Sir) Peter Preston, Greville Park Avenue, Ashted, Surrey.

## British firms that help to defend apartheid

Those who claim exclusive occupation of the high moral ground should at least try to ensure that their basic information is correct.

Mrs Thatcher endorses the notion that industry in South Africa is in the forefront of those fighting apartheid (July 20) and that British companies in South Africa are working in the interests of the oppressed rather than those of the regime. This is just one of the many factual inaccuracies upon which her opinions on sanctions and professed morality are based.

In the effort to protect their investments, South African and foreign companies have been trying to distance themselves from the worst excesses of the apartheid system with a series of declarations, charters, statements to shareholders, newspaper advertisements, and programmes of action. Not surprisingly, their propaganda omits all reference to the way in which their activities in the country support and strengthen apartheid.

It is not only that they buy "defence bonds" and pay taxes to Pretoria which are used to increase the regime's repressive and aggressive capacity; nor that they provide strategic technology, equipment and fuel to the police and military; nor that their directors accept appointments to serve on key policy-making bodies, including those that plan to ensure adequate manpower for the regime's military forces; nor even that they are engaged in the production of arms and other military equipment.

British companies effectively are paying the salaries of many of the troops deployed in the townships and committing the brutalities which the regime is so anxious to keep off TV screens. They are among the many companies which ensure that their conscripted white employees, fighting to defend apartheid, continue to enjoy the privilege of white incomes by making up the difference between their army and civilian salaries and, in some cases, continuing to pay them their full civilian salaries. They do this voluntarily.

At installations which have been designated "national key-points" — including those owned and operated by BP, ICI and Shell — the companies finance (at shareholders' expense) and provide facilities for the training and equipping of industrial commandos in collaboration with SANDF commanders, who have open access to the premises. The training includes "counter-insurgency" and "riot control"; the units are incorporated into regional "defence" planning, which in South Africa means defending apartheid. Black trade union officials have identified white workers on the Cospiracy operating in "unrest" areas.

Though companies are required by Pretoria's laws to keep secret their involvement in defending apartheid, the legislation itself is available and makes the requirements specific. Neither City boardrooms nor the British Government can claim ignorance.

Would it not be appropriate for Mrs Thatcher to direct lectures on morality to these companies, and ask them to preface their statements against sanctions with full disclosure of how they are assisting in the defence of apartheid?

Perhaps she could set an example by doing so herself?

Frene Ginwala (Address supplied).

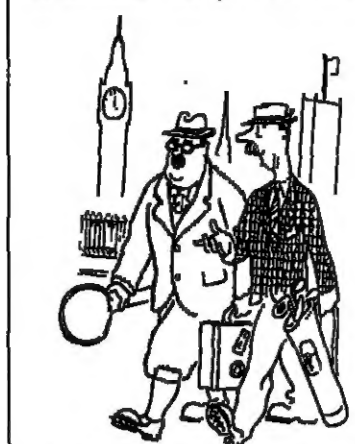
## Knuckle ball

Just over two years ago I was present at a very exciting egg-and-spoon race, run with baseballs on pinking paper, by members of the history department of Faking University. It was part of the departmental sports afternoon in which all the professors (except one visiting professor) took part.

The competitors seemed to regard it all as innocent fun. But now I realise that it was the first sign of the introduction of competitive, capitalistic Western values and the undermining of everything for which the Chinese revolution was fought.

J. R. Pole, (Rhodes Professor of American History Studies), Oxford.

## Osbert Lancaster: soul of wit



"After all, if Hitler is such a cad as to invade us over Whitsun, our place is obviously with our constituents." May 10, 1940.

SIR OSBERT LANCASTER, who died on Sunday, aged 77, was, for as long as I can remember, the best and the wittiest daily cartoonist in England, writes Mel Calman. Many people, I am sure, only bought the Daily Express for his pocket cartoon.

His drawings first appeared in 1939 on the William Hickey page and later he was promoted to the front page. He never looked down on his audience; he quoted the Bible, literature, threw in French phrases, assumed that everyone was as educated and literate as himself.

Sir Osbert created a miniature world that reflected the madder world outside. When Maude Littlehampton spoke, she usually deflated someone or something that badly needed it.

Apart from his daily cartoons he designed superbly for opera and ballet. He wrote and illustrated a shelf of books — always with wit and elegance. His cartoon history of architecture, *Pillar to Post*, opened more people's eyes than any other book on the subject.

Sir Osbert went to school at Charterhouse, and went on to Oxford.

In the introduction to one of his collections, *Signs of the Times*, he wrote: "A professional preoccupation with the topical is the surest passport to oblivion, and nothing, not even women's hairdos, nor the music of the late Ivor Novello, dates so quickly as the apt comment."



"I take it the 'E' is silent, as in 'Mardi'." December 12, 1957.

Letters to the Editor are welcomed but not all can be acknowledged. We don't like cutting them but sometimes this is necessary to get them in the page — short letters stand a better chance. Send them to The Guardian Weekly, PO Box 18, Chesham, Cheshire SK5 1DD, England.

## Row grows over 'rift with Palace'

THE Government, and the Prime Minister, looked distinctly tired when the Commons rose for the summer recess last week. The closing days of the session were particularly bruising ones, and the administration will need some new ideas, and a lot of luck, to see it through what may be the last year of Mrs Thatcher's second term in office.

The privatisation programme has run aground. The economy is still not performing well enough to stop the increase in unemployment and poverty. The slump in oil prices poses a serious threat to next year's promised tax cuts. And Mrs Thatcher is increasingly out of step with the Commonwealth and, quite possibly, with the Queen as well.

Reports, sparked off by the Sunday Times, of a rift between Downing Street and the Palace, encouraged endless speculation. Was the Queen really concerned about the Prime Minister's refusal to contemplate sanctions against South Africa, and about the Government's part in the American bombing raid on Libya? Or were the alleged differences a malign invention by a group of disaffected Tories to put the skids under Mrs Thatcher?

The Queen does not reveal her innermost thoughts; nor is anything ever said about the weekly exchanges between Prime Minister and monarch. So how could there be a "constitutional crisis"? The Sunday Times' story, it turned out, was based on an unattributable briefing given by the Palace's urbane press spokesman, Mr Michael Shee, who admitted providing a background for a fairly anodyne feature on the monarchy, but the paper also printed, but firmly denied saying anything that could have caused the resulting controversy. "I have no direct knowledge of the Queen's views on Mrs Thatcher," he said.

It was an episode which Mrs Thatcher could well have done without, coinciding as it did with the royal wedding and with the report of the select committee on the Westland affair, in which Cabinet ministers and senior civil servants came in for a severe drubbing. (See page 4.)

Opposition MPs were furious over a report which showed that nearly one in three people — over 16 million — are living on or just above the poverty line. Their anger was not only directed at the figures, which were the worst this century, but at the way they were revealed. Mr Frank Field, the Labour MP for Birkenhead, had asked for them a year ago, but the response came in a written parliamentary answer an hour after the

### THE WEEK IN BRITAIN

by James Lewis

Commons had adjourned. The reply did not contain the figures asked for but referred MPs to statistics lodged in the library, which had closed for the summer.

"It is obvious that the Government did not want anyone to know about this," complained Mr Field, pointing out that the number on the poverty line had shown a record rise — from 11.5 million to 16.3 million — between 1979 and 1983. The poverty line is set by the Government at £28.40 a week for a single person and £44.80 for a married couple.

The royal wedding was indirectly responsible for the official abolition of caning in schools. An amendment to the Education Bill, forbidding corporal punishment and thus bringing Britain into line with the rest of Europe, was carried in the Commons by just

one vote. Twelve MPs, whose votes might well have produced a different result, failed to get to the House in time because of crowds of sightseers around Westminster.

Tory backbenchers joined the Opposition in angry protest against a government announcement that Royal Ordnance, the state-owned armaments manufacturer, is to be sold by tender to the private sector, only a few weeks after the planned public flotation of the company fell through. The Leeds factory has already been sold to the Vickers group, which has also been awarded a contract to build 76 Challenger tanks. Labour will try to refer the matter to the Monopolies Commission on the ground that the sell-off will jeopardise the country's defence requirements by putting the armed forces at the mercy of monopoly suppliers.

The monthly trade figures showed that the collapse in oil prices had cost Britain £1.6 billion in the first six months of this year. There was increasing concern in the City that unless this week's meeting of Opec in Geneva succeeds in forcing prices up again, the country's balance of payments could be seriously jeopardised. There was a sizeable deficit of £623 million on visible trade in June and it was estimated that, even after earnings from invisible trade, the current account would only be £77 million in surplus.

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## 25 per cent fewer Jews

By Walter Schwarz

"DISENCHANTMENT" with religion has helped to reduce the number of British Jews to 330,000, a decline of 25 per cent in 30 years, Mr Eric Moonman, chairman of the research committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said last week on publication of a new report.

Only half of British Jews now marry in synagogues, and the population is also ageing rapidly, the report says. However, the dwindling Jewish population appears to be more religious, with enrolment at Jewish day schools up from 9,000 to 14,000 and synagogue attendances also higher.

British Jews will have to "reassess their self-image and get used to a figure of 300,000," said Dr Stanley Waterman, of the University of Haifa, co-author of the report with Mr Barry Kosmin.

The report says that the low rates for synagogue marriage were caused by "emigration of young people, civil marriages among Jews, non-marriage, new alternatives to conventional marriage, or outmarriage with a Gentile partner."

British Jews in the Eighties, available from the Board of Deputies, price £4.

## Currencies slide amid Opec confusion

By Margaret Pagano and John Hooper

STERLING and the dollar collapsed in hectic foreign exchange trading on Monday as the Opec meeting adjourned in disarray after little progress on national quotas.

Persistent fears over falling oil prices hit the markets early just as rumours filtered through from the Far East pondering the imminent resignation of Mrs Thatcher. These were obviously off beam, but worries over the Government's poor prospects are firmly embedded in market sentiment.

The pound crashed 1.5 cents against the dollar in early trading to \$1.4870, but with the dollar also falling sharply, particularly against the German DM, it recovered to \$1.4770. The DM gained nearly six pfennigs against sterling and the effective index against the basket of currencies ended down a sharp 1.3 points at 71.1.

There was no intervention by the authorities as clearly not concerned that this is a slight out of sterling but a temporary hiccup over oil prices. The dollar remained weak all day but dived in the afternoon after further bad news on the US economy. It touched a low of 2.1150 against the DM.

Opec's delicate negotiations on a production sharing agreement that would rally oil prices took an acrimonious turn when the Iranian oil minister said that Iran would torpedo a settlement by raising its output unless it got what it wanted. Iran's overriding concern is to prevent Opec's summer conference in Geneva from legitimising increased production by Iraq.

Baghdad's representative told a 90 minute full session of the conference at which the 13 ministers outlined their Government's views on the redistribution of national quotas, that his country, which is estimated to be producing some 1.9 barrels a day, was seeking to increase its quota from 1.2 to 2.3 million barrels a day. But he also insisted that, in any agreement, Iraq would have to have parity with Iran.

One of the gallery's trustees who said that Mr Pillsbury's manner of saying he had put them in difficult position, insisted that the letters were not technically letters of rejection.

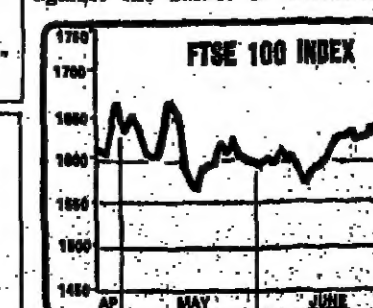
Mr Ingamells, aged 52, who has previously worked at York City Art Gallery and the National Museum of Wales, is seen by the art world as a steady but solid choice.

Another of the unsuccessful candidates is convinced that the job will eventually go to the darkest horse on the list. The candidate declined to be named but claimed very senior sources for his rumour that the director will be Mr Neill McGregor, the 40-year-old editor of the Burlington Magazine, monthly academic journal on art.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGES

	Starting Rate July 28	Previous Closing Rate
Australia	2.4943-2.4950	2.4950-2.4955
Canada	2.12-2.124	2.12-2.124
Denmark	04.65-04.84	04.16-04.37
France	2.0304-2.0322	2.0320-2.0356
Germany	11.79-11.82	11.75-11.78
Italy	10.35-10.38	10.35-10.38
Japan	3.12-3.13	3.12-3.13
Netherlands	11.49-11.50	11.51-11.52
Sweden	1.0590-1.0670	1.0747-1.0787
Switzerland	2.180-2.184	2.180-2.185
USA	220.26-230.94	223.92-224.48
West Germany	3.52-3.53	3.52-3.53
Yen	11.83-11.85	11.82-11.84
Other	210.25-220.22	210.25-220.22
Spain	201.02-201.30	202.85-203.39
Sweden	10.37-10.38	10.40-10.40
Switzerland	2.51-2.52	2.52-2.52
UK	1.4765-1.478	1.4801-1.4818
ECU	1.4777-1.4795	1.4829-1.4858

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# Thatcher badly tarnished by report on Westland affair

THE Prime Minister sprang to the defence of her Cabinet Secretary and other officials severely criticised in a Commons select committee report last week on the Westland affair which also cast doubt on her version of the crisis last January.

Mrs Thatcher declared her full confidence in Sir Robert Armstrong, head of the Home Civil Service, as well as Cabinet Secretary, after he was censured by the defence committee's report into the Government's conduct.

She told a furious Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader: "I will not accept the committee's comments on the role of the head of the Home Civil Service, who continues to enjoy the Government's total confidence."

Mrs Thatcher faced a concerted Opposition attack after the publication of the report, probably the most critical since she came to office. It is the Government's hope, and the Opposition's fear, that the parliamentary recess which started the day after the report was issued, would drain interest.

The committee issued two reports, of which the one on the future of Westland Helicopters gives some support to the campaign of Mr Michael Heseltine for a European rescue. The other, on the Government's handling of the crisis, centres on the leak of a letter criticising Mr Heseltine written by the solicitor-general, Sir Patrick Mayhew.

The committee is extraordinarily critical of most of the officials involved in the leak, although the Department of Trade and Industry official, Miss Collette Bove, who telephoned the Press Association with the leak, is an exception. It says: "In respect of the disclosure on 6th January those involved knew, or ought to have known,

that what was done was wrong. The disclosure was made unattributably in order to conceal the identity of those concerned."

Ministers are accused of having given unconvincing evidence on this issue and Mrs Thatcher's own explanation of the leak is said to look "flimsy, to say the least."

The report is not conclusive in its implication that Mrs Thatcher knew of the leak before it was arranged — something she has firmly denied — but it says that before Sir Robert began his two-week inquiry at Mrs Thatcher's request its main finding was already known to the principals.

Sir Robert, Mr Bernard Ingham, press secretary at Number 10, and Mr Charles Powell, one of Mrs Thatcher's private secretaries, all knew that the then Trade and Industry Secretary had authorised the leak, the committee concludes.

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, is accused of having known of ministerial authorisation when he decided not to prosecute Miss Bove who, he said, had acted in complete good faith.

Sir Michael last week issued a statement, by a Commons written answer, to clarify his position. He said that when he granted immunity from prosecution to Miss Bove he had not been aware of the full circumstances. Nor had he known the source of the authorisation when he advised an inquiry.

But later Dr John Gilbert, a Labour member of the committee, accused him of trying to "wipe his fingerprints" off the episode by avoiding the question when he knew that Miss Bove had received ministerial authorisation.

The report is unanimous, despite the Conservative majority on the committee. MPs were surprised by its strong criticism of the way in

which Downing Street and the DTI organised the leak. It was an improper act, the committee says. "It is to the head of the Home Civil Service that all Civil Servants have to look for example and a clear lead in such things. In this case that lead has not been given."

It agrees with the earlier recommendation of the Treasury and Civil Service committee that no civil servant should simultaneously head the Home Civil Service and be Cabinet Secretary.

Dr Gilbert attacked Sir Robert bitterly for his refusal to allow officials to give evidence to the committee, partly because they had already given evidence to him and it was a question of their "careers, reputations and lives."

He said: "Sir Robert compounds the hypocrisy by having the affront to tell us that we should not have these people as witnesses."

By James Naughtie

because of an ordeal that he put them through quite unnecessarily."

Last week, Mr Michael Foot, the former Labour leader, called for Sir Robert's resignation. "No previous head of the Civil Service, when confronted by a unanimous report of a House of Commons select committee, would wish to stay in his post."

The committee concludes that Mrs Thatcher did not give "direct authority" for the leak of the letter, but it reveals contradictions in her public statements on the affair by listing her responses to opposition MPs. It challenges her version of the incident, which led eventually to Mr Heseltine's resignation — the ministerial "meeting" that never was — on December 13 last year.

The committee notes that there

is a direct conflict of evidence on whether the meeting was called. It was remarkable that Mr Heseltine was not allowed the opportunity to report to colleagues on the battle over Westland, it says.

In an analysis of the leaking of the letter the committee says that Mr Ingham and Mr Powell could have told the Prime Minister on January 7 what would be the principal findings of Sir Robert's inquiry more than a fortnight later. It had to be presumed that both officials were present when the Prime Minister discussed the matter with her law officials.

Mr Brittan was strongly criticised for refusing to give the committee some of the information which it considered necessary. The Opposition was in full cry last week against Mrs Thatcher. Mr Kinnock, in a highly effective performance at the despatch box, told her: "You are in great danger of yourself attracting the reputation of being disreputable and improper."

He said: "Do you accept ministerial responsibility for those officials, particularly some of those named and directly accountable only to you and are personally associated very closely with you?" Mrs Thatcher refused to go beyond her earlier statement of "total confidence" in her officials.

So six months on from the moment of crisis the principals look little better, and some of them a good deal worse, than they did at the time.

Only Michael Heseltine holds on to most of his reputation in the Defence Select Committee report, but he could not hold on to his office as well. The only difference between him and the rest of the victims is that he is starting again: the others are just trying to keep going.

The report is a devastating indictment of Mrs Thatcher's operations, through ministers and officials, at the heart of the Government.

The charge of duplicity is more implied than stated in the report, but it is the theme that runs throughout. It portrays a world in which officials and ministers speak to each other without alluding directly to their shared knowledge, as if the instinct of eventual self-protection is always dominant. It suggests a degree of panic about the Heseltine-Westland campaign, threatening to undermine the whole image of Thatcherite efficiency and control and Downing Street, quite different from the statement of confidence issued by the Prime Minister.

In short, it confirms that the affair combined bungling and intrigue in equal proportions and did indeed reveal another side to the Iron Lady — the boss who couldn't keep control of her Cabinet, the straight-talker who allowed her officials to engage in carefully contrived deceit and her Cabinet Secretary to spend a fortnight on an inquiry whose result he knew before he started.

The Committee has failed to implicate her directly in the leak but it accuses her, on the basis of carefully-aided evidence, of almost everything but a straight lie to the Commons.

At the height of the crisis the Prime Minister gave a television interview in which she said by way of explanation of the goings on in the Cabinet Room and elsewhere that truth was sometimes harder than fiction.

Now, with the publication of the Select Committee report on the way the Government behaved, it is possible to see precisely what she meant.



The Duke and Duchess of York leaving Westminster Abbey — picture by Frank Martin.

## A family occasion

By Martin Walnwright

DODGING confetti, and running after the carriage to grab Prince William who looked as though he was trying to go stowaway, the Queen saw her second son off on his honeymoon in a moment typical of an unstuffy, light-hearted royal wedding pageant.

To hold a "family" ceremony, as both bride and groom had requested, seemed a pleasant but unlikely prospect in the presence of enormous crowds, squadrons of cavalry, the solemnity of Westminster Abbey and the splendour of Buckingham Palace.

But Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson, created the 14th Duke and Duchess of York only 90 minutes before the ceremony, can claim, for the most part, success.

It was not at the expense of the solemn moments which played their due part in the day, but by touches — winks, the huge teddy bear on the going-away landau and an obvious delight in the whole spectacular — which find an echo on any Saturday at churches and register offices.

The long celebration began well when the police turned a blind eye to a ramshackle collection of tents and bivouacs which broke all the laws of St James's and Green Parks but kept the most devoted of the wedding-watchers contented and dry overnight.

The weather behaved itself as the morning drew on, providing spectacular cloudscapes over the palace as the carriages, folding tops cautiously in place, creaked up from the Royal mews to the main forecourt.

The Queen examined the sky, asked for the tops to be rolled back and the processions — hers, the prince's and the bride's — were off, down the corridor of guardmen, banners and cheers, to the abbey.

As they rolled along, past the Whitehall Theatre (showing When we are Married) the abbey was filling with guests.

Scattered boing greeted the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, when she slipped discreetly into the church, where the opposition leaders, Mr Neil Kinnock, Mr David Steel and Dr David Owen, were seated with their wives.

Then a rolling chorus of "Sarah! Sarah!" marked the arrival of the bride and her immense haberdashery of silk and satin, lace and innumerable beads.

As the Duchess went down the aisle she winked and gave wide-eyed grins at her friends but her

mind was apparently preoccupied. According to a lip reader hired by the News of the World she was worried with her father, Major Ronald Ferguson, about whether her veil, secured only by a chaplet of flowers, would stay in place.

Liku anyone might under observation by an estimated 300 million people throughout the world, the Duchess made a minor fluff of her lines. Intensive practice had failed to make the long carriage procession of her husband's names — Andrew Albert Christian Edward — into something which tripped off the tongue.

The robot camera behind the altar recorded it all, while the congregation, separated from the ceremony by the choir screen, watched on ten TV monitors and smiled as the "I wills" were echoed by renewed cheering from outside.

There was no sermon; the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, had given his thoughts earlier, privately to the couple and publicly on BBC radio's Thought for the Day when he claimed the day for "the celebration of the magic and mystery of love."

"Each of us can also make a vow today, to do everything we can to nourish and build up the stable marriages on which the future of our country depends," he said. "None of us today need feel we are mere spectators."

The strain of listening quietly to the language of 1662, even so, told on some of the bridal retinue. Prince William wound his hat cord round his nose, poked himself in the eye and started playing with the toy knife which came with his miniature sailor's uniform.

The balcony appearance at the palace was greeted by loud exclamations of "Give us a kiss" which the Duke and Duchess, after a little mime of incomprehension and cupping her hand to her ear on the bride's part, duly did.

Then the couple joined 140 guests for a "breakfast" of lobster, lamb and strawberries before changing for the honeymoon journey to the Azores.

A final touch, just as cameramen were packing away their equipment, came when the new jet of the Royal Flight swung on to the apron at Heathrow where the couple were taken in a helicopter from the Royal Chelsea Hospital. Twin flags on the plane's tail opened to reveal the message "Just Married," and a large learner-driver's L-plate.

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## THE WEEK

TAMIL guerrillas blew up two buses near the northern Sri Lankan town of Vavuni, killing 60 people in two separate attacks. In the first attack a landmine exploded under a bus, killing 37 people and wounding 23 others. In the second attack, a bomb on board a bus exploded, killing 21.

After two weeks of talks in Colombo with the Government, the Tamil United Liberation Front leader, Mr. Appapillai Amirthalingam said he believed the Government was now ready to negotiate a political settlement. Mr. Amirthalingam said understanding had been reached over the devolution of power, but the fundamental issue of the creation of a single Tamil territory within Sri Lanka remained unresolved.

AT least 32 people were killed and 140 injured when a huge car bomb exploded in Christian East Beirut. The Lebanese Forces, the rightwing Christian militia, blamed Syria for the attack.

The explosion, which followed a three-hour artillery duel on Sunday between the Muslim and Christian halves of the capital, heightened tensions as Syrian and Lebanese soldiers prepared to withdraw from Shi'ite-dominated southern suburbs, stronghold of two potential opponents of the Syrian-sponsored "security plan".

A CHILEAN army lieutenant has been held pending investigation and military trial over the alleged burning alive of two people, including a United States student, Rodrigo Rojas, during anti-Government protests this month. The judge ruled that Lt. Pedro Fernandez Dittus should face charges of negligence in allowing the manslaughter of Mr. Rojas and to grievous bodily harm to an 18-year-old student, Carmen Quintana, who is still seriously ill in a Santiago hospital.

THE US space agency, Nasa, announced that the seven astronauts may have lived for a short time after the blast that destroyed the Challenger space shuttle six months ago. Transcripts of voice recordings show the co-pilot, Mr. Michael Smith, exclaimed "Uh Oh...!" and two of the oxygen sets recovered from the ocean floor were nearly empty. It would have been medically possible for the crew to survive the 2min 45sec descent to the Atlantic, though they would probably have lost consciousness after about 15 seconds.

MORE than 1,000 rioting Hindus stormed buses and police cars in the working-class Delhi district of Moti Nagar during a 24-hour strike in protest against the massacre of 18 bus passengers by Sikh terrorists in Punjab last Friday.

Police shot dead three rioters in Tlek Nagar suburb after a demonstration by militant Hindus degenerated into looting and arson. A Sikh temple was burned down. Three more victims died of stab and gunshot wounds and at least 50 other people were injured.

CHINA expelled the New York Times correspondent, Mr. John Burns, a Briton, who was accused of espionage. He is reported that he was a spy and made a trip through central China which provoked the charge was legitimate. The Chinese said Mr. Burns had entered a military restricted zone and taken "unauthorised photographs of classified objects".

THE US Vice-President, Mr. George Bush, met the Israeli Foreign Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, in Jerusalem at the start of a 12-day Middle East tour which is expected to help to capitalise on last week's Israeli-Moroccan talks and perhaps to improve relations between Jerusalem and Cairo.

Mr. Bush will spend four days in Israel before going to Jordan. He is to meet after talks with the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, whether to go on from Egypt to Morocco to see King Hassan.

PREPARATIONS for a possible Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington began when the Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, met the Kremlin envoy, Mr. Alexander Basmirnykh, at the State Department. The meeting came amid some suggestions in the Administration that the superpower leaders might try to reach a preliminary agreement on offensive weapons at the summit, leaving the more thorny issues of strategic defence as an agenda subject for discussion.

THE Lockheed Corporation has lost about 1,450 classified documents, some of which relate to one of the US's most secret defence projects, the F-19 stealth fighter, which is designed to be invisible to radar.

In testimony before the investigating committee, Lockheed's chief executive, Mr. Lawrence Kitchen, described the company's loss of the documents as "irreparable" and promised "there will be no cover-up". (Model stealth planes sold, see this page.)

## Soviet olive branch to China

THE Soviet Union will withdraw six regiments from Afghanistan by the end of the year and is considering pulling out "a substantial proportion" of its troops from Mongolia, the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, announced on Monday.

In a televised address from the Far Eastern city of Vladivostok, clearly aimed at Chinese and other Asian governments, he emphasised that the Afghan move was meant "to speed up a political settlement and to give it further impetus". Mr. Gorbachev spoke of what he called the "urgent need" to make radical changes in foreign policy.

The regiments involved in the withdrawal from Afghanistan — three anti-aircraft, two motorised rifles and one armoured — would return to bases inside the Soviet Union. About 6,000 men would be involved, leaving nearly 120,000 still deployed on Afghan soil. The special crack units which have been brought into the country in recent months to counter growing rebel effectiveness in some regions will not be affected.

Repeating a pledge that has come out of the Soviet Union a number of times since he became leader, Mr. Gorbachev declared that all Soviet troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan once a satisfactory settlement was reached between the government in Kabul and the Muslim rebels, who have been opposing it for nearly seven years.

His offer came on the eve of the UN-sponsored talks on Afghanistan which reconvened in Geneva on Wednesday.

But the suggestion of a withdrawal from Mongolia could be much more significant. The Soviet

presence, mainly along the frontier with China, has become increasingly unacceptable to the Chinese since the bitter border dispute of 1969-70.

The removal of these troops as well as the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and the backing for Vietnam's presence in Kampuchea has consistently been seen in Peking as a major obstacle to any Sino-Soviet rapprochement.

Mr. Gorbachev said: "The question of withdrawing a substantial part of Soviet troops from Mongolia is being examined jointly with

By Michael Simmons

the Mongolian leadership." In other words, he has now gone as far as he can in placing something like a diplomatic ball in the Chinese court.

Continuing in this conciliatory vein, he declared: "The Soviet Union is prepared, at any time and at any level, to discuss with China questions of additional measures for creating a good neighbourly atmosphere."

Then, to other concerned listeners in the Far East, he added: "The Soviet Union attaches great importance to the radical reduction of armed forces and conventional arms in Asia to the level of reasonable need." Mr. Gorbachev suggested that the Amur river, along the Sino-Soviet frontier, which saw so many skirmishes in the dispute of 1969-70, should become the scene of joint projects for the benefit of both sides.

He renewed his proposals for an Asian security conference, which would bring together countries from throughout the area for multilateral talks along the lines of

the European Security Conference held in Helsinki in 1975. "In our opinion," the Soviet leader said, "there are no insurmountable obstacles in the way of establishing mutually acceptable relations between the countries of Indo-China and ASEAN."

But his words will also be studied with care in Washington, and not only because they touched — fairly positively — on the notion of a second Soviet-US summit he suggested on reducing the activity of fleets in the Pacific.

"In the Pacific region," Mr. Gorbachev declared, "the Soviet Union also shares a border with the US, with only seven kilometres dividing us... We clearly recognise that the US is a great Pacific power. It has important legitimate economic and political interests in the region."

Pakistan gave a cautious welcome to the announcement of the pull-out. A spokesman described it as "a welcome decision" and said he hoped it was "a small first step" towards the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Western diplomats in Islamabad are sceptical about Mr. Gorbachev's offer. They point out that previous public announcements about limited troop withdrawals subsequently turned out to be no more than troop rotations.

The US gave a cool reception to the Soviet initiative. The State Department spokesman, Mr. Bernard Kalb, said that there was only one acceptable solution to the Soviet occupation — the prompt and complete withdrawal of all the Russian troops.

Pakistan halts supply of missiles, page 18.

## Congress pressure

Continued from page 1

the mini Commonwealth summit, staving off the pressure for sanctions long enough to allow for at least one more concerted EEC-US push to avert a spiral descent into violence and economic warfare.

Perhaps, just perhaps, the Botha government, for reasons that have little to do with major political reform, will decide on the early release of Nelson Mandela — but without lifting the state of emergency or unbanning the ANC. Probably designed, in South African terms, as a Machiavellian move to destroy the Mandela myth, his release now, if it takes place, would undoubtedly help Mrs Thatcher to neutralise temporarily

some of the Commonwealth pressure for sanctions against South Africa.

By most accounts, Pretoria is already resigned to the prospect of economic sanctions. To a large measure it is hoping that the axe will fall sooner rather than later, so that it can settle down to its fortress mode. Indeed, having delayed for so long with the threat of economic measures, it is now increasingly doubtful that the certain prospect of sanctions now could alter President Botha's determination to try to write the script for change in South Africa on his own terms and those acceptable to his National Party and to the South African Army.

Mr. Jacobsen, in his video-taped interview, said: "My captors said this is the very last sign of their goodwill and that our release will be by death if the Government doesn't negotiate right now."

## Toy manufacturers do well by Stealth

By Alex Brummer in Washington

CLUSTERS of children wearing Burberry raincoats and with tribble hats drawn down over their eyes have been crowding into America's toy shops in search of one of the country's most marketable espionage secrets.

The objective is the acquisition of one of America's most highly classified secrets — the F-19 Stealth fighter. It is a project so clandestine that members of Congress who have appropriated billions of dollars to finance the research, development and production have never been told what they are voting on. Servicemen, responsible for operations of the aircraft, have nicknamed it Harvey, after the invisible rabbit who co-starred in a James Stewart film.

For just under \$6, however, any schoolchild interested in learning the country's innermost secrets can acquire them on the High Street. This month's hottest selling model plane kit is the so-called

invisible fighter, whose existence the Pentagon still refuses to acknowledge.

The production of the model F-19, whose configuration is said by the technical experts to be highly accurate, has outraged Congressmen who have been seeking even the smallest detail about the Pentagon's secret project.

"It's bizarre," said Representative Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat. "What I as a member of Congress am not allowed to see is now ending up in model packages."

Just how secret the Stealth project is was revealed a fortnight ago when an F-19 crashed in the Sequoia National Park in California. The Defence Department imposed a news blackout, put planes into the area to patrol for intruders and ordered in armed guards. The fighter had been brought to California in a C-5 transport plane from Nellis air force base, in Nevada, where 40 of the aircraft

## Reagan in dilemma on hostages

By Alex Brummer in Washington

THE Reagan Administration was forced on to the defensive on Sunday over its refusal to negotiate with terrorists as anxious relatives of remaining hostages in Lebanon responded with fear to the video tape carried by Father Lawrence Jenko, who returned to freedom in the West after 18 months in captivity.

US officials promised to "talk" to release the remaining Western hostages in Beirut, but stood firm against "negotiations with terrorists." There were strong suggestions that Syria had the power to improve its relations with the US by using its influence to bring out the remaining captives.

The joyous return of Father Jenko to a US base in West Germany was marred for many Americans by the haunting video tape he carried with him from a second US hostage, Mr. David Jacobson, who bitterly attacked White House inaction and apparently confirmed the "execution" of another hostage, William Buckley.

The White House sought to reassure an increasingly doubting and impatient American public that the US is doing all it can to free the remaining Americans and other captives in Lebanon. "We're working very hard to secure the release," a spokesman told correspondents, "but we're not going to give in."

The Islamic fundamentalist captors of the Americans are demanding the release of their brothers imprisoned in Kuwait for terrorism.

Father Jenko's arrival in Germany in the company of the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Mr. Terry Waite, provoked the relatives of the other hostages including Mr. Jacobson, the head of the medical school at the American University in Beirut, and the Associated Press Bureau chief, Mr. Terry Anderson, to renew their pressure on the Reagan Administration. They believe that while the White House waged an all-out effort last year to free hostages, held aboard a TWA airliner in Beirut, it has never made the same effort to secure their relatives' release.

Mr. Jacobsen, in his video-taped interview, said: "My captors said this is the very last sign of their goodwill and that our release will be by death if the Government doesn't negotiate right now."

## Britain in spy hook-up with Pretoria

BRITISH and United States intelligence have been exchanging information with their South African counterparts about the activities of the banned and exiled African National Congress throughout the mounting crisis in the apartheid regime, past and present, US officials have finally admitted.

The exchanges have been systematic and regular, and on at least one occasion involved the presence of three South African military intelligence officers swapping detailed shopping lists with senior US and British agents during a high-level meeting held at Britain's major listening post, GCHQ Cheltenham, in the mid-1980s.

They traded information gleaned from signals intelligence organised from GCHQ in Cheltenham about political activities, ANC bombing targets, and the movements of leaders like Oliver Tambo, in return for South African data on Soviet and Cuban military and political involvements throughout southern Africa, according to the New York Times.

A whole array of political, economic and military information about black sub-Saharan states, notably the frontline states adjoining South Africa, was also targeted and communicated so routinely as to acquire what is known in American tradecraft as "case notation" — designated numbers for computer transmission.

As the White House and

Downing Street struggle to resist what they portray as the emotional clamour for tough sanctions, the political fallout of the revelations are potentially immense. In the US they assert that the Reagan Administration allowed the National Security Agency, GCHQ's equivalent, to reverse a Carter Administration ban on intelligence pooling with the South African Directorate of Military Intelligence. It had, in any case, been evaded by "elements in US intelligence agencies", although no data on the ANC had ever been forwarded before 1981.

Though the finger points similarly at the Thatcher Government, the New York Times account

By Michael White in Washington

suggests that ministers in the Wilson-Callaghan governments of 1974-9 may have some reminiscing to do, too. After the fall of the Portuguese empire in 1975, and the start of the Angolan civil war, in which a CIA covert role was sanctioned, "vast quantities" of listening equipment were shipped from Britain and Germany, much of it US-made, to bolster South African listening capabilities. All three governments supposedly looked the other way, the usually cautious newspaper reported in a front page report from which mention of the CIA is conspicuously absent.

The White House spokesman, Mr. Larry Speakes, was quick to call the report "not true", while the State Department routinely refused to discuss "intelligence operations or alleged intelligence operations". But the charges, well documented by Mr. Seymour Hersh, the experienced investigative reporter of the Times, caused no great surprise among some Washingtonians versed in intelligence matters.

Even more persuasively, the alleged intelligence links square with President Reagan's continuing obsession — so evident in last week's politically disastrous speech — with South Africa's strategic importance to the West. He tied it to Moscow's ambitions in

the region and a veiled charge that many key members of the ANC have links with the Communist Party.

"It all comes down to what you believe about the ANC," one former senior Reagan official told the Times. Like current officials also quoted, he regards the ANC as "the bad guys, Soviet pawns" which made cooperation with Pretoria vital.

Mr. Hersh's sources, from both Carter and Reagan years, were unable to say what the South Africans had made of the information they received either to prevent ANC attacks or to launch their own controversial attacks on targets inside the front line states. States targeted for intelligence, according to the Times, included Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Botswana, and Zimbabwe, the centre of some already documented double-dealing by Western intelligence agencies during the years when it was still the rebel colony of Rhodesia.

For Britain, the critical claim

SA minerals 'not vital for defence of West'

By Alex Brummer in Washington

US strategic experts have said that the cutting off of Western supplies of vital minerals produced in South Africa would not be insurmountable, but would be at a financial and performance cost to the US and its allies.

President Reagan asserted in his South African speech last week that the loss of South African strategic metals, notably vanadium, manganese, chromium and platinum, would leave the West with "no other secure source of supply". Mrs Thatcher has made similar statements.

However, strategic experts said that while loss of vital minerals might be economically disruptive affecting production of everything from stainless steel cutlery to the clean exhaust systems on American cars — there was no reason to believe that the loss of the minerals would cripple the West's defence capabilities. Products of alternative technologies, including such organic fibres as carbon filaments, could be substituted for the vital minerals listed.

There are also some supplies of the materials elsewhere in southern Africa which could be airlifted to the West. They are now shipped via South Africa.

Each of the minerals is used in defence programmes of one kind or another, according to a Pentagon consultant, Mr. Edward Luttwak, a fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University. Platinum is used as a kind of filter for "gaseous diffusion" required in the preparation of enriched uranium for nuclear weapons.

Vanadium is a heat resistant mineral very important in building jet engines, manganese and chromium are both important for steel alloys used in making the advanced steel compounds of weapon systems. Mr. Luttwak noted, however, "It is always possible to substitute these components". This was not such an option in the

second world war, when the Allies made strenuous efforts to prevent shipments of chromium and other vital minerals from reaching Germany.

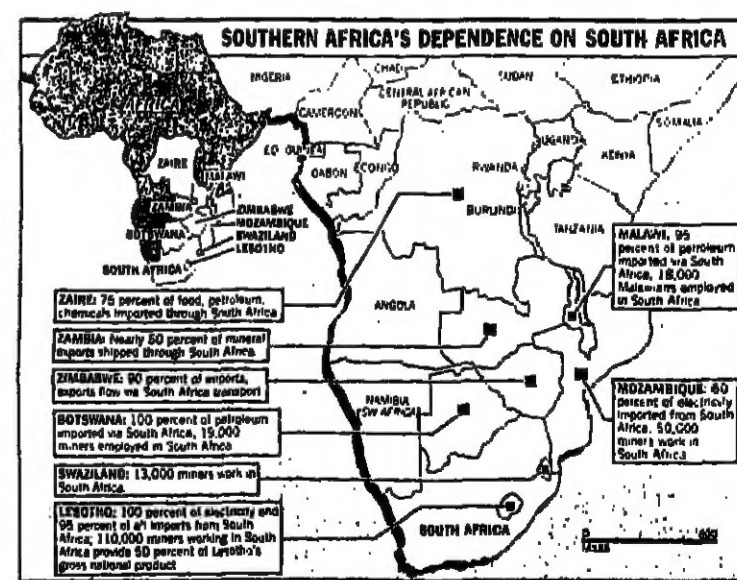
While Mr. Reagan and others have chosen to put the loss of the West's vital minerals in strategic terms, it is ordinary industry and transport which might be most immediately affected, since most Western countries maintain stockpiles of the materials for military purposes. "We're not saying the world would fall apart," argues Mr. Robert Wilson, director of the Strategic Resources Office of the US Commerce Department. "If you had a cut-off, you would directly affect the employment of some 3.2 million Americans who work in industries which use these materials."

According to Mr. Wilson's office in the years 1980-83, South Africa supplied 55 per cent of America's chromium, 49 per cent of its platinum, 44 per cent of its vanadium and 39 per cent of its manganese.

It is noted, however, that there are alternative suppliers, Zimbabwe, for instance, has 11 per cent of the world's chromium, which would certainly be enough to meet US strategic needs, if not enough to satisfy the voracious appetite of American car makers for chrome decoration.

While President Reagan saw vanadium as a problem, he neglected to mention that some 13.2 per cent of the world's reserves are in the US itself. While, therefore, it may be cheaper to buy vanadium mined by blacks in South Africa, the US's strategic position would hardly be at risk.

Commerce Department officials also noted that, unless there was a "complete cessation of production in South Africa," it was almost certain that the vital minerals would leak out. "People have a way of getting round embargoes," the official in the Office of Strategic Minerals said.



## US whites 12 times richer than blacks

A FRESH urgency has been injected into the perennial debate about the best means of effectively improving the lot of black Americans by the official revelation that their white fellow citizens have not only almost double their income, but nearly 12 times their wealth.

Even more disquieting is the discovery, made in a survey of 20,000 households by the Reagan Administration's own Census Bureau, is that Hispanic Americans, comparative newcomers in their present large numbers, have closed the gap faster. At a median level of net worth in 1984 they emerged with \$4,813 per household, against \$39,185 per white family and \$3,387 per black household.

Assets included were things like houses, cars, savings and shares — minus debt — but not cash, furniture, jewellery, and pension

rights, which presumably have allowed the imbalance even further. The black-white gap was smallest among black families with both parents present and highest of all among middle-aged whites with college education and double incomes.

Much of the Census Bureau findings are predictable enough. And the median family income gap

By Michael White

— \$13,761 against \$23,647 — is one in which optimists can claim that progress is being made since the gradual emergence of blacks into the American economic mainstream over the past 20 years.

What the unprecedented concentration of wealth rather than income as an economic indicator has done to jolt complacency is to underline how far there is to go.

## Germany and Japan feel Reagan wrath

By Alex Brummer

PRESIDENT Reagan, clearly concerned about the development slowdown in the American economy, is accusing the US's allies West Germany and Japan of damaging the health of the international economy.

In a broadcast to the American people Mr. Reagan added his personal authority to the sharp criticism of the Bonn and Tokyo governments already expressed by his Treasury Secretary, Mr. Jai Baker, and the Federal Reserve chairman, Mr. Paul Volcker. President said that "slow negative growth" among our industrialised partners "hurts economy".

His unusual criticism of economic policies of the US's trading partners reflects fears in White House and the Republican Party that a slump in the economy this year could dampen prospects of hanging on to control of the Senate this November beyond.

The US has been sucking persuade its allies to cut into rates and expand fiscal policy through tax cuts, to take pressure off the United States.

The Federal Reserve, the central bank, believes that a new further reduction in the discount rate, a key guide money costs in the United States, is possible without risking a fall in the US dollar on the foreign exchanges. Mr. Reagan noted there was plenty of room for expansion in "Germany and Japan which actually saw their national products sink in the quarter."

Mr. Reagan, in a 10-min weekend radio broadcast from presidential retreat at Camp David, peppered his normally optimistic remarks with references to the weaknesses developing in US economy.

He argued that large sectors of the US economy were struggling with special problems including "oil, agriculture, steel and tires". He said the workers in the industries "are always on mind" and "expressed his determination to keep the economy moving".

The White House, which shortly expected to reveal that has lowered its growth forecast this year, below the four per cent predicted in February, is concerned that the slowdown in traditional industries will lead to a burst of protectionist activity Capitol Hill before November elections.

With 30.5 per cent of black households, 23.9 per cent of Hispanics and only 8.4 per cent of whites boasting no or minus assets, another way of saying that urban underclass, in the ghetto usually headed by women, are poorest of the impossibly poor.

In the face of federal urban programmes designed to lift blacks out of poverty, in a ranging from welfare to cultural initiatives, including a few biculturalists, are again stress self-help in a renewed de-institution, in its more euphoric moments, tries to present the President as a second Lincoln: economic emancipator of the ethnic group in America who was lately noted during the re-Mises Liberty celebrations, their passage across the Atlantic paid for them.



# Middle East map remains the same

KING HASSAN of Morocco was looking distinctly jumpy as he spoke to his "dear people" in a live television address from the Royal Palace at Marrakech last Wednesday night, shortly after concluding two days' talks with the Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The apulent oriental furnishings and the regal purple and white flower arrangements behind the King could not disguise his obvious unease at being the first Arab head of state since the late President Sadat to publicly meet an Israeli leader and — as if the risk in that were not enough — to have achieved what looked suspiciously like nothing.

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Hassan II, descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, Commander of the Faithful and Monarch of the Kingdom of the Far West, rules a domain that lies more than three thousand miles from the heartland of the Palestine conflict. He can afford, as none of his fellow Arab leaders can, to go out on a limb

and make spectacular gestures. This time, though, he may have gone just too far.

The King, clearly believing that attack is the best form of defence, berated his Arab brothers for criticising his decision to talk to Peres while themselves acquiescing to continued stalemate in the search for Middle East peace. "If my territory was occupied," Hassan II but sneered, "I wouldn't have waited this long."

But it is the content, much more than the timing of his talks, that matters. Even bearing in mind that the King's account of his controversial encounter must have been far from complete, his stress on the fact that Peres refused to discuss evacuation of occupied territories or to recognise the PLO can only be a bad sign.

"Basically," one Arab diplomat argued in Rabat last week, "King Hassan said there was nothing to talk about. All the ambiguity that was needed for any future contact between the Arabs and Israel has gone. How will King Hussein of Jordan be able to explain any future move towards the Israelis now?"

But few people believe that the Moroccan leader ever really hoped to make substantial progress in his meeting with Peres. "The King," said a veteran Western diplomat, "is not naive. He is a man of high culture with a deep background in Arab and international politics. He was not born yesterday." So what then, was his real aim?

The grim reality of the Middle East is that it is bedevilled by bitter and seemingly irreconcilable divisions in Arab ranks, and, with the impending takeover of the Israeli government by the intransigent Likud leader, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, it would hardly be too cynical to claim that only a fool could truly believe in movement.

Hassan, therefore, many observers conclude, hoped simply for a different result from the ifrane talks. Calculating that the predictable and angry responses from radical Arab states like Syria, Libya and Algeria, would signify little more than sound and fury, he made a move that would help his

position where it really matters — in Washington.

Moroccan-US relations have been in bad shape for nearly two years, ever since, to the surprise and consternation of those who saw the King as a loyal friend of the West and its regional priorities, he signed a treaty with Libya, a move which brought an end to Tripoli's longstanding support for the Polisario guerrillas fighting for the independence of the Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara.

The Treaty of Oujda, named after the fly-blown border crossing point where the strange alliance

was concluded, has long been more or less moribund, but it has never stopped annoying Washington, which, especially since the bombing raids on Libya earlier this year, demands that its friends positively shun Colonel Gaddafi and his truculent State of the Masses.

Opinion is divided as to precisely what the King hopes to gain by a move that is being generally interpreted more as a gesture towards the Americans than to Israel. A request for 25 advanced F-16 fighters — at a cool 40 million US dollars apiece — has not aroused enthusiasm in the US, especially when mounting foreign debts, continuing drought, falling phosphate prices and the ruinously expensive Saharan war have all but emptied the Royal coffers.

Yet it was hard, watching the Moroccan leader nervously explaining himself to his people on Wednesday night, to avoid the impression that it was all, as one veteran Arab expert put it, "just a poor imitation of what Anwar Sadat said eight or nine years ago."

"King Hassan gave us Superman II. He will certainly lose something after this meeting, but there is no comparison with what Sadat did when Superman I was playing in 1977. And if the other Arabs had followed Egypt then, we might all be in a very different position today."

## Killings mark Bissau's decline

By Jill Jolliffe in Lisbon

GUINEA-BISSAU's execution of six political leaders, including the former vice-president, Paulo Correia, has underlined the deteriorating situation in a country which was once regarded as a potential model for the Third World.

The executions were carried out despite appeals from the Pope, the Portuguese President, Mr Mario Soares, former president Eanes and Amnesty International to commute the death sentences. All those executed were members of the minority Balante tribe. Observers fear that the tightening repression imposed by the president, General Joao Bernardino Vieira, has consigned Guinea-Bissau to the list of orthodox African dictatorships.

The first of Portugal's former colonies to win independence in modern times, Guinea-Bissau, came to nationhood in 1974 in conditions of extreme underdevelopment, but with a heroic reputation for anti-colonial struggle which earned it acclaim

in the United Nations, a rich philosophical heritage from its founding father, Mr Amilcar Cabral, and strong international support to help it emerge from its poverty in the post-colonial era.

By 1980 it was evident that the dream had faded. Aid poured in by sympathetic Western governments had been exhausted, attempts to build an effective economic infrastructure had failed, leading to chronic commodity and power shortages and — after a coup which overthrew founding president Luis Cabral — it was revealed that mass executions had occurred.

It was in the name of correcting these ills that General Vieira

overthrew Cabral, who now lives in exile in Portugal. The operational commander of the 1980 coup was Paulo Correia, the man who was executed two weeks ago, along with five others who had also been Vieira's henchmen.

There was nothing strange about the fact that they were his former allies — according to observers in Bissau, General Vieira's recent behaviour has demonstrated symptoms of paranoia.

His increasingly dictatorial personal behaviour does not alone explain the trauma through which Guinea-Bissau is passing. With an unpayable external debt of \$73 million the country is being squeezed.

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# Prague spring, Moscow summer

Michael Simmons on the Soviet manifesto

SPECULATION over the precise origins of the Moscow "manifesto" and why it should be published in the West will be fuelled by frenzied debate in every Communist country about the nature of its contents.

All the ruling parties in the Warsaw Pact, for a start, contain thousands of reformists who must have been aching all their political lives to get their teeth into just such a document. They have been restricted until now, however, by what they euphemistically call the "geo-political realities" of their situation, their sworn allegiance to the Soviet Union as the Pact's *primus inter pares*.

In Czechoslovakia in 1968, the Prague Spring protagonists emerged out of the corpus of a party which had previously been so conservative under President Novotny. In Poland, a dozen years later, a party which had appeared distinctly unimaginative under Gierek very quickly produced a million or more members who felt able and willing to join the ranks of Solidarity.

The reformists, in other words,

who would doubtless go along with much of the manifesto, and certainly with the spirit in which it has been written, are those Communist Party members who know each other well, talk until the small hours about the art of the possible, but set the outward role of conformists.

But the same manifesto will also have given rise to some bent-pin smiles in Eastern Europe today. One will be on the face of Janos Kadar, the Hungarian leader. The other — more piquantly — will be on the face of the Czechoslovak leader who tried, and failed abysmally, to play the Hungarian card — Alexander Dubcek. He is now a minor forestry commission functionary in the wilds of Slovakia.

Kadar has gone some way in implementing, in a country less than one twentieth the size of the Soviet Union, some of the proposals that have now been put out by the Moscow group. The Hungarian economy is run, where feasible, on a devolutionary lines; there is a choice of candidate at some elections; there is a measure of public debate about key policy matters.

But Kadar succeeded because, in 1956, he came in as a strong man who knew his way around. Like Moscow's own Yuri Andropov, he had run the secret police. Dubcek failed in part because he was a weaker man, who did not know his way round and was anyway ill-advised.

Even so, the Moscow manifesto contains many passages which are reminiscent in flavour and content of the Czech party's Action Programme, published in Prague in April 1968, and a seminal document of post-war European communism comes to be written.

In a tone remarkably similar to the Russians' manifesto, it began: "We want quite frankly to disclose what the mistakes and the deformities were (in post-Stalin Czechoslovakia) and what caused them so that we can remedy them..."

At another level, the manifesto will intrigue the East Europeans. That is in the extent to which it represents a further rejection of the thinking of Josef Stalin. In many ways, it moves another important step in the direction

taken by Nikita Khrushchev when he began the dismantling of the Stalin myth in 1956: it is saying, as Khrushchev said then, that the Soviet system has grown too rigid, and that it can afford to relax.

In 1956, Poland emerged as the trail-blazer, bringing in Wladyslaw Gomulka, imprisoned under the conservatives, as chief innovator. Hungary followed suit, seeking to reject the claustrophobic Soviet influence on decision-making, but it took 12 years to introduce its "new economic mechanism," a visibly "different" sort of socialism.

The crushing of the Prague Spring led to a purging of reformists from every corner of Czechoslovak life. But this is not to say that the innovators have all gone underground in Eastern Europe. Almost all the countries have experimented in socialist methods — Bulgaria with big farms run on industrial lines, East Germany on joining different enterprises together in common cause, Romania in its more versatile foreign trade patterns, and so on. But for the most part, they have stuck to rigidly

centralist, non-pluralist patterns of management, with very varying levels of efficiency, as well inefficiency, mismanagement, corruption an inevitable result.

The whole process is pervasive the same time with an ideological self-righteousness and, often self-seeking sycophancy towards the Soviet Union. This attitude, among other things, will be severely punctured, if not exploded by the new manifesto.

But while one large segment the ruling parties will be, overtly or covertly, rejoicing at the manifesto's appearance on the debate tables, an even larger segment be acutely disturbed. These are old guard, some dating even from Stalin's time, but most now identified more closely with Brezhnev.

Mr Gorbachev has done in inside the Soviet Union to root the dead wood associated with Brezhnev era. He has urged East Europeans to do the same. This manifesto, if it even begins to be taken up, will at least be a with which to beat some people

## The secret dream of a Soviet tomorrow

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE SOVIET UNION!

A GROUP of Soviet citizens with access to objective information have made a comprehensive analysis of the condition of the Soviet economy today, and of the perspectives for its development up to the year 2000; of the domestic political situation now and in the near future; and of the USSR's international position and the alignment of the forces of capitalism and socialism.

The results of this analysis show that our country has reached a limit beyond which lies an insurmountable lag in economic and scientific-technical development behind the advanced industrial nations; a reverse of present US-Soviet military parity in favour of the USA, and an intensification of the military threat to our country; a further weakening of the USSR's international position and its decline into a second-rate power; and deepening contradictions between the members of the socialist commonwealth, with a collapse of the world socialist system.

Because of the exceptionally grave situation facing our country, this group has decided to establish the "Movement for Socialist Renewal" (MSR), and as the first step, to bring to Soviet people's attention the results of our analysis, thereby offering for discussion a number of political and economic measures which may still rescue the Soviet Union from deadlock, and provide its people with their economic prosperity and economic freedoms.

After the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, Lenin wrote that Russia had two alternatives: "either to perish, or to catch up with the advanced countries and overtake them economically."

Almost 70 years have passed since then, yet in all key indicators the Soviet Union has still failed to catch up with, let alone overtake, the advanced countries. Thus the USSR's gross national product is 60 per cent that of the USA. In industrial production, there has been, since the 1970s, a sharp decline in average annual growth rates (21 per cent in the first Five-Year Plan, 10 per cent in the 50s and 60s, 5 per cent in the 70s, and 2-3 per cent in the 80s). This decline has taken place against an "explosive" industrial growth in the USA in these years (by 2 to 7 times), in the EEC countries (3 to 9 times), and in Japan (23 times).

The Soviet Union lags 10 to 15 years behind the capitalist countries in its economic development, and this lag is growing. The USSR is now on the path to becoming one of the underdeveloped nations.

Lenin said: "Capitalism can and will be finally conquered, because socialism will create a new and higher labour-productivity." In 1988, labour-productivity in Soviet industry was 55 per cent, and in agriculture, 25 per cent, that of the USA.

Speaking of Russia's economic backwardness, Lenin cited as examples the structure of the Russian export trade, which was dominated by the so-called "colonial" goods, like grain, timber, fur and minerals. In the structure of the Soviet export trade to the developed capitalist countries in the 1980s, 85 per cent of revenue from exported goods is from minerals, while that from machines and equipment has remained for over 20 years at 2 per cent. From a country exporting grain and manufactured goods, the Soviet Union has now become a major importer of these goods (from 1970 to 1980, the import of grain and foodstuffs rose threefold).

The trade balance of the USSR with the capitalist countries is a negative one, covered by western credits. The Soviet Union is now one of the major debtor nations in the world, whose debts to the capitalist financial institutions (about 30 billion American dollars in the middle of 1983) place it third, after Brazil and Mexico. Projecting onto the future an analogous structure of the export-import plan, the Soviet Union's debts to the capitalist nations will have increased six-fold by the year 2000, and by the year 2005 the country will have been forced to spend 75 per cent of its export receipts just to repay its external debts.

Economics is the art of managing the economy. The defining feature of Soviet economic management at the present time is mismanagement — a lack of responsibility amongst senior people in the government apparatus for the state of the national economy; and the absence of any material incentives of office, factory and farm workers, or for scientists and the technical and creative intelligentsia, in the results of their work.

The country is short of metal, because almost a third of all metal is wasted, and in some cases this amounts to 70-80 per cent. The

country is short of grain, because 30 per cent of it is lost during harvesting and transportation. The losses of other agricultural products, like potatoes and fruit, amount to over 60 per cent. The country is short of timber products and paper, although the USSR's timber resources are the largest in the world. And although the Soviet Union is one of the major oil-producing countries in the world, its economy suffers from a serious shortage of oil-products.

The Soviet Union leads the world in its wasteful attitude to its limitless mineral reserves. Over the past 10 years alone, the export of gas rose 30-fold; huge amounts

### Full text of the manifesto

of raw oil are exported; the export of gold in some years amounts to 300 tons per year; and many other useful raw materials, many of them strategic, are also widely exploited.

Soviet people's standard of living is one of the lowest in the industrially developed world, including the member nations of Comecon. In the USA, a worker receives on average 1,000 rubles a month. The average monthly salary of a Soviet worker is 185 rubles — five times less. And there is an even greater disparity between the two countries in the salaries of the technical and creative intelligentsia, the military, and officials of the state apparatus.

Low pay is vitiated by difficult living conditions. Chronic shortages of basic foodstuffs like meat, milk and butter in a number of areas, and frequent stoppages of these products altogether in many others, have a bad effect on people's health, especially children's, and create an atmosphere of nervousness and uncertainty, with people waiting their free time, and even taking time off work, to search for food and stand in queues.

The Soviet Union on average lags behind the USA two-fold in per capita production of such basic foodstuffs as meat, milk, butter, cheese, eggs and sugar. In 1988, certain foodstuffs were rationed in a number of areas, just as in the war years. This was one reason for the rise in the child-mortality rate.

The constant disappearance from the shops of first, one series of goods and foodstuffs, then another and the eternal hunt for the most basic goods, and small everyday

things, forces people to limit their range of interests to one everlasting search, leaving them neither the time nor the physical strength to satisfy their spiritual and cultural needs, and killing their human dignity.

The living conditions of the rural population, especially those not living on the central state and collective farms, is reminiscent of the life of the Russian peasantry in the early part of the 20th century.

To the developed countries, the living conditions of Soviet people wherever they work — in industry, transport, construction or agriculture, in the state apparatus, or in scientific organisations — are like those of a previous era. Poor labour organisation and weak industrial discipline; the primitive mechanisation and automation of manual and labour-intensive work; the rudimentary computerisation of administrative and scientific work; infringements of the rules of safety, engineering and health; the systematic drives and speedups at the end of the month, the quarter and the year; the poor performance of the network of public eating places — these are the characteristic features of the great majority of Soviet enterprises and organisations.

At the end of the working day it is possible only with great difficulty to visit a cinema, theatre, cafe restaurant or sports ground. There are 3 to 5 times fewer cinemas for every thousand people in the USSR than in the developed countries of the West, and 10 to 20 times fewer restaurants and cafes.

In the public services sector, the USSR simply does not compare with the capitalist countries — or even with the developing countries. There is a desperate shortage of everyday services like groceries, savings banks and health-centres. Long queues have become an inevitable part of Soviet people's life.

Low salaries lead to the feminisation of men, who are unable to be the financial head of the family — with all the negative consequences this entails for their families, the education of their children, and the role of men in society as a whole.

Men's inability to support their families results in the masculinisation of women. Mark said that a society's progressiveness could be assessed in terms of the position of the fair sex. The Soviet, of Ministers of the USSR has just adopted a resolution ban-

ning the employment of women in heavy work. It has taken a year for this measure to be adopted, yet it still remains paper, and women continue to be used in those heavy, monotonous jobs in factories and in construction which men will take.

Since it is impossible to live on man's salary, women in the USSR are forced to abandon family children to find work in a factory or office. But work does not fulfil a woman from housework the care of her husband and children. The reason for the persistence of so many problems in children and young criminals that many children are not reared at home, in the family, have to care for themselves and their education from the street.

In these social and political conditions, drunkenness and a holism flourish, along with prostitution and thieving.

The Soviet Union firmly is the world in its consumer strong alcohol: for every man of the population, including infants, 11 litres of vodka and 80 are consumed a year, and between 1950 and 1984 alone, alcohol consumption rose 4 times. 10 to 15 times more vodka is consumed in the Soviet Union today than consumed in Tsarist Russia.

Female alcoholism, which is increasing particularly sharply now on the agenda, and explains the significant rise in the birth mentally and physically impaired babies.

Alcohol has penetrated deep into the life of Soviet people, has assumed the character of a national disaster, which threatens the very future of our country.

There is a headlong collapse the basic nucleus of Soviet society — the family. In 1913, there were 0.44 divorces for every 100 marriages; in 1985 — 17.94; in 1978, 28.62. Since 1913, therefore, collapse has increased 65 per cent.

The social and economic development of our country in the modern age is closely connected with speed of scientific and technical progress. The path to intensification of the economy of material resources, fuel and energy, the rational use of labour resources — all this can be successfully developed only with a effective use of the existing scientific and technical potential.

The Soviet Union leads the world in the number of scientific

Continued on p. 2



## Call for genuine involvement in Socialist self-government

Continued from page 9

Every fourth scientist on this planet is a citizen of the USSR. The number of Soviet scientists doubles every seven years, twice as fast as in the USA. The Soviet Union leads the world too in its scientific discoveries.

The first sputnik, the first cosmonaut, the first atomic electro-station — the Soviet Union has been a locomotive for scientific and technical progress.

The mid-70s witnessed a new technological revolution in the world, based on the latest discoveries in science and technology. The Soviet Union underestimated the significance of these new developments of world science for its national economy and the strengthening of its military potential, and spending 1.5 to 2 times less than the western countries on scientific discovery and experimental construction work, it began gradually to lag behind them in science and technology. There is an especially significant lag in such areas crucial to the scientific and technical progress of our country as the complex automation and mechanisation of production (40 per cent of all work in industry alone is manual); in cybernetic methods of administration, and in the use of the automated systems (the use made in the USA of automation exceeds by more than eight times an analogous indicator in the Soviet Union); in computerisation, including the use of microprocessor techniques and optoelectronics, biotechnology and atomic energetics (the capacity of the average atomic power station in the Soviet Union is almost 4 times less than that in the USA); and in energy-saving technology.

The absence of any efficient mechanism enabling the national economy swiftly to adopt the long-term development of effective discoveries operates negatively on the development of technical progress in the USSR, as does the lack of any material interest to carry them out. Scientific and technological developments are carried out against the stubborn opposition of the entire social-economic system, which simply "chucks out" all attempts to instill the results of scientific-technical progress, like a living organism discarding a foreign body.

The USSR's scientific and technological backwardness has become chronic and unquestioned — as though the urgent problems of the country's economic development could be solved by simply importing advanced western techniques and technology, including the construction of whole factories "under the key," paid for with our limitless national resources of oil, gas, iron ore, concentrates and other vital minerals. The Soviet Union is living for today; our leaders give no thought for tomorrow, to the future of the country and its people. "Après moi le déluge," said Louis XV, and his courtiers marvelled at his wisdom. History now repeats itself in another country and another historical era.

This year, Soviet people celebrated an important date in their history — the fortieth anniversary of the Great Patriotic War. "No one is forgotten..." — that is the twenty million or more Soviet people who gave their lives for victory — "Nothing is forgotten" — those are the causes for such incalculable human losses.

An analysis of the early period of the war shows that the basic causes that brought the Red Army to the brink of catastrophe, and the Soviet people to the threat of enslavement, were an underestimation of the role and

place in modern warfare of aviation and mechanised units, and the Red Army's lack of automatic weapons, effective anti-tank guns, modern tanks and planes, as well as the rough-and-ready reckoning of the higher military-political leadership as to the direction of the German armed forces' blow and the timing of this blow.

The Soviet Union won an historic victory in the Great Patriotic War, but the Soviet people could have achieved this victory with far less human and material losses, and the road to Berlin need not have started from Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad and the North Caucasus.

Marxist-Leninist science defines politics as the concentrated expression of economics. A sick economic organism inevitably weakens the country's international position. The socialist camp is no longer a united and monolithic union of fraternal nations. The leading role of the Soviet Union amongst the socialist countries has been significantly weakened, and its authority is now lower than it has ever been in all its history.

The "eternal and unbreakable"

military-political bloc, and the creation both east and west of potential centres of military aggression. For the first time in the post-war period, a series of governments, such as those of Japan, China and the Federal Republic of Germany, are openly making territorial claims on the USSR.

Soviet foreign policy is based on mistaken assumptions about the causes of tension in the world (the arms race), and pursues false goals (universal and complete disarmament). The arms race is a consequence, not a cause, of international tension, and to achieve the goals of universal and complete disarmament it is necessary to seek ways to liquidate the causes of international tension, the "hot spots" of our planet.

Over almost 70 years, the social-political system existing in the Soviet Union has been unable to achieve economic superiority over the capitalist countries either in the development of economics, science and technology, or in the well-being of its people; to guarantee the inviolability of its state borders and the safety of the Soviet people, or to secure the interna-

communism!

In the last 15 years alone, the Party's Central Committee and the Soviet of Ministers have adopted over 30 resolutions on agriculture, and some 20 on increased production of consumer goods. It is hard to find any sphere of the national economy in which resolutions have not been adopted by the higher organs of the party and an executive on the improvement of labour. But they have all remained promises, and no one has been brought up before the party or state for failing to carry them out. The Central Committee has not reported to the Soviet people and party the reasons for the collapse of the economic policies of the 20-year period covered by the 22nd Congress of the CPSU.

The country's continuing economic deterioration, and people's deteriorating living standards, indicate that the measures adopted have not replaced the laws of the existing economic system, which bans all initiative, deprives members of the socialist society of any material interest in their labour, bars the path to scientific and technical progress and encourages

centralisation or decentralisation (which are apparently unconnected to the functioning of the most advanced social-political society) — despite all this, no one can propose any evolutionary solution to the present crisis. Moreover, the time for any possible resolution has already passed.

It is necessary, before it is too late, for the country and the Soviet people to take urgent measures of a revolutionary nature to rebuild the economic foundations of the socialist structure, and to carry out the necessary changes in its superstructure which can lead Soviet society from its blind alley, make the Soviet Union an example for other states as regards people's living standards and civil rights, and the development of agriculture, science and technology; restore its authority in the world communist and labour movement; and allow it to occupy its place in international society, as is proper to a great power.

It is the deep conviction of the MSR that a number of fundamental measures must be taken, in the first instance:

### POLITICAL MEASURES:

1. Press freedom: "The 'Watergate scandal' in America, and President Nixon's resignation; the disclosures of the journal *Der Spiegel* in the German Federal Republic, and the resignation of Foreign Minister Strauss; the 'Lockheed scandal' in Japan, and the resignation and trial of former Prime Minister Tanaka; the bombing of the 'Rainbow Warrior' in New Zealand, and the resignation of French Foreign Minister Heraud — these and many other examples show that a press independent of the government and the ruling party can play an important role in the struggle against corruption and law-breaking, even if these crimes involve the highest politicians in the state.

The creation of a press independent of party and state would encourage a more effective struggle against the crimes of individuals; it would inform Soviet people more deeply and comprehensively about life within their country and beyond its borders; it would help to make Soviet people better informed, and allow them to make a more objective assessment of events and state and party officials.

In a draft for a resolution on the freedom of the press, Lenin wrote: "The workers' and peasants' state understands by the freedom of the press... the granting to every group of citizens of a certain number (say, 10,000) of the use of a corresponding share of paper supplies and printing facilities."

2. To stop persecuting people for their political and religious beliefs, and to guarantee the freedom of speech.

The existing apparatus of repression, and the measures it takes, leads to hypocrisy, bigotry, unprincipled behaviour and servility. Soviet citizens have been trained to lead a double life — one, amongst their family and friends, where they can have their own thoughts, ideas, dreams and opinions, and the other, in official situations and at meetings, where they have to be puppets, programmed in official ideology, to repeat the accepted stereotypes, to repeat the pronounced slogans, to repeat the higher-ranking leaders' ideas, their opinions on every aspect of human activity, foreign policy and questions of ideology to the width of a pair of trousers and the length of a jacket.

The answer to the problem of the "expenses" of the

concept of political pluralism — did not have "the right favour."

In the first official reaction to the document, a Soviet spokesman described it as "a provocation to disrupt the ongoing process of reconstruction of our society."

"It was written by some kind of authors who want to reshape our society," said Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the head of the information department of the Foreign Ministry. "There are a lot of problems with the document," Mr Gerasimov said. "There is no reference to a source, and it contains errors, particularly about the scale of the Soviet foreign debt. And why did it come up now?"

Over almost 70 years, the leaders of the Soviet state have repeatedly tried to raise agricultural production and to provide the population with essential foodstuffs, and industry with raw materials, and it has repeatedly attempted to improve industry and to provide the population with essential goods, and the national economy with industrial goods.

At the dawn of Soviet power, Lenin wrote: "... we have passed so many resolutions that no one will be able to read them, let alone collect them." In the following years, starting especially in the 1980s, the Soviet state and party apparatus has been deluged with a stream of resolutions, decisions and decrees, unsupported by any organisational measures, and far exceeding the economic capacity of the country.

Thus the CPSU programme, adopted in 1961, said that in the following decade (1961-70), the Soviet Union would surpass the USA in per capita production; that all workers would be guaranteed a material sufficiency; that all state and collective farms would be transformed into highly productive and profitable enterprises; that the need for comfortable dwellings would be satisfied; that hard physical labour would disappear, and the USSR would become the country of the shortest working day.

By the end of the second decade (1970-80), the material and technical base for communism would have been created, guaranteeing an abundance of material and cultural blessings for the entire population, and Soviet society would have come close to realising the principal of distribution according to need. Thus the USSR would have become a truly communist society. "The Party solemnly declares: the present generation of Soviet people will live under

## Challenge to grant Soviet people freedom of speech

Continued from page 10

people's "inability" to speak at meetings without notes is that Soviet people are forced to repeat the thoughts of others.

In some cases, the suppression of free speech forces people to set up illegal and semi-legal groups of a political or religious nature. In some cases, it leads to prominent cultural figures — artists, writers and scientists — emigrating abroad, where they are active in anti-Soviet circles. And in some cases, much more worrying for the government, it leads to the organisation of armed attacks with political aims — as happened in Riga on one of the warships of the Baltic Fleet — or of highly-placed KGB officials going over to the enemy.

To grant the freedom of speech and the press would make for a healthier political situation in our country, strengthen the moral and political unity of the Soviet people, and help to educate them in the spirit of genuine patriotism and love for their country.

Without freedom of speech and the press there is no proper publicity. And "without publicity," said Lenin, "it is ridiculous to talk of democracy..."

3. To provide the constitutional conditions for the creation of alternative political organisations.

The one-party system operating in this country was created by Lenin as the political expression of the dictatorship of the proletariat, for the purpose of destroying the old social political system, suppressing the remnants of the exploiting classes, and constructing a new socialist society. Now that the full and final victory of socialism is complete, the dictatorship of the proletariat has fulfilled its historic mission, as regards its internal development, and is no longer necessary.

The government, which arose as a government of the dictatorship of the proletariat, has turned into a socialist, public government, whose political structure still retains the one-party system, as an instrument for the dictatorship of the proletariat, and excludes political pluralism.

In capitalist society, the political will of the ruling class is expressed through the bourgeois state mechanism of a political party (or alliance of parties), which in coalition with other parties, including communists, advances the programme most closely corresponding to its class interests at that stage of its historical development. It may advertise to the people its programme's correctness during elections, and if the winning party cannot carry out its promises when in office, the ruling class will give its support to another bourgeois party at the next election.

The system of replaceability, and the competition of several political parties for the best defence of the interests of the ruling class and the best arrangement of its political and economic needs, helps to introduce new ideas into the running of the state and parties, and to create constitutional immunity against stagnation, sluggishness, inertia and conservatism; bureaucracy, irresponsibility, uncontrollability, the abuse of power and the other chronic diseases natural to a party permanently in power.

The creation in the USSR of different political organisations, all with the ultimate aim of building a socialist society; the competition between them for the best programme of action in the interests of our ruling class — the workers, peasants and intelligentsia — and for the right to represent their interests in the

highest juridical and executive organs; their full responsibility to the people and control by the people (in alternative political organisations, freedom of speech and the press) in putting this programme into practice — all this would be a qualitatively new step in the development of Soviet democracy, and in the involvement of all Soviet citizens in genuine socialist self-government.

"Every citizen must be given the opportunity to participate in discussing the laws of the state, in electing his representatives, and in putting state laws into practice," said Lenin.

### ECONOMIC MEASURES:

1. To observe the objectively existing economic laws.

According to the Marxist-Leninist conception of economic processes, there exist general economic laws for every social-economic formation, which operate objectively and do not depend on the consciousness or will of people. These general economic laws — on the development of the relations of production, distribution, exchange and consumption — are as objective for every method of production as are the laws of mathematics and physics.

The relations of property — private and public — to the means of production do not alter the action of these laws, and their infringement leads to slumps and crises in the economic system, to "skids" in the economic mechanism, and in the final analysis, to a slowing of economic growth and to economic lag. The most obvious examples of the disregard of the economic laws in the USSR, and their replacement by resolute pronouncements, was the liquidation of the Leninist policy of state capitalism (the New Economic Policy), and the collectivisation of the rural economy. In recent times, about 80 per cent of all collective farms are unprofitable and exist at the expense of the state (in 1984 alone, about 50 million tons of grain were imported, i.e., 25 per cent of the country's needs). While in the sphere of services and the manufacture of consumer goods, the USSR compares only with the most backward of the developing countries.

2. To expand the rights of enterprises, on a fully self-supporting basis.

There must be an expansion of the rights of profitably operating enterprises, along with a decentralisation of state planning and administration, and the transfer of powers from central to local organs, where the material goods are actually produced. While granting wide initiatives to local enterprises, their material responsibilities, to both consumers and private trade through the creation of small trading enterprises is economically necessary for the functioning, according to Leninist precepts, of the economic mechanism of state capitalism.

"The exchange of goods and the freedom of trade inevitably means the appearance of capitalists and capitalist relations," said Lenin.

"There is no reason for us to fear this. The workers' state has in its hands enough resources to keep these relations within proper limits..." THE proposed programme of political and economic transformation is the highest creative development of Marxist-Leninist teaching on the state, based on the experience of socialist construction in the USSR and other socialist countries.

is not something for socialism to be afraid of, as long as transport and major industry remain in the hands of the proletariat."

4. To allow Soviet citizens to rent state land and farm machines and land for cultivation and to repay the state with a proportion of their crops. The surpluses of agricultural production will be the property of the lessee, and can be sold in the market-place.

A comparison with agricultural production in the USA and the USSR demonstrates that leaseholders have huge potential reserves: in the USA, the average crop-capacity is more than double that in the USSR. Moreover, 7 times more labour is expended on harvesting 100 kilos of wheat in the USSR than in the USA.

The system of renting land and machines in order to raise capacity and productivity, and to promote the personal interest of lessees in the results of their labour, will lead to the creation of highly productive farms, and will ultimately provide the country with essential agricultural produce. It must not be forgotten that Russia is now an importer of grain.

5. Not to obstruct the development of private holdings on collective farms, allotments and dacha cooperatives, or the sale to town-dwellers of unused peasant houses.

The further development of personal plots and the sale of their produce at the trade can significantly improve the supply of foodstuffs to the towns and the peasant population, and lead to a reduction of market prices.

At present, personal holdings account for about 2 per cent of all land under cultivation, and contain about 20 per cent of all state-owned pigs, and over 30 per cent of all state-owned chickens. These holdings thus yield on average 90 per cent of all meat and milk, 35 per cent of all fruit, 40 per cent of all eggs, 60 per cent of all potatoes, and up to 70 per cent of all vegetables. Furthermore, it should be emphasised that the state provides no funds for the development of these holdings, and does not pay their owners for their labour, and since there is no administrative apparatus (like party or executive committees) in charge of the landholders, it does not pay any administrative expenses.

6. To create the conditions for the development of private trade.

It is impossible to enact measures to make full use of the initiatives and interests of the people and the socialist state without making use of private trade, conducted by an economic coalition of private enterprises, lessees, smallholders and consumers in the market-places. The development of small trading enterprises is economically necessary for the functioning, according to Leninist precepts, of the economic mechanism of state capitalism.

"The exchange of goods and the freedom of trade inevitably means the appearance of capitalists and capitalist relations," said Lenin. "There is no reason for us to fear this. The workers' state has in its hands enough resources to keep these relations within proper limits..."

THE proposed programme of political and economic transformation is the highest creative development of Marxist-Leninist teaching on the state, based on the experience of socialist construction in the USSR and other socialist countries.

In the political realm, the Programme denounces all violations of the Constitution of the USSR by state and party organs, and offers Soviet citizens the real opportunity

for such constitutional rights as the freedom of speech and of the press, and of political, creative and religious activity; independence of trial, and the recallability and accountability of the legal organs of Soviet power.

The new political structure will allow the realisation of the Leninist demand, fundamental for a socialist state, of the need "... to limit much more precisely the functions of the party (and its secret service), and to increase the responsibility and autonomy of Soviet officials and institutions..."

The new political order excludes the opportunity for people casually to gain high positions in party and state, and the repetition of such socialist anomalies as the cult of personality, voluntarism, empty pronouncements, irresponsibility and mental inertia.

In the economic sphere, the Programme foresees a doubling in the next 2-3 years of industrial production, and a tripling of agricultural production; a significant reduction in the import of grain and other stocks, and the provision of basic foodstuffs to the entire population of the country; the raising of trade, services and public eating-places to the level of the civilised countries.

The adoption of the Programme will help to release the vast creative resources of the Soviet people and the socialist structure, and will promote a flourishing of Soviet culture, art, literature and

science, a significant improvement in the well-being of the population, a growth in the economic and military power of the Soviet Union, and the consolidation of the world socialist system.

The "Movement for Socialist Renewal" calls on all Soviet people, regardless of their age, sex or nationality, their social position or party status, to read the Programme for Socialist Renewal carefully, actively discuss it with their family, friends, acquaintances and work-teams, and to send any suggestions or observations in letters to the Soviet papers and journals, to the radio and television.

The "Movement for Socialist Renewal" expresses the hope that the Soviet mass media, challenged to grant people their freedom of speech, will do its duty by them and do everything possible to acquaint others with the Programme of Socialist Renewal. And that the Soviet legal organs, challenged to defend and guarantee the constitutional rights of citizens of the USSR, will not persecute these citizens for their political beliefs.

Should this Programme be published in the Soviet press, the leaders of the Movement for Socialist Renewal are prepared to appear on Central television to discuss the problems touched on in their programme.

"Movement for Socialist Renewal," November 21, 1985, Leningrad.

المرکز الدولي للبحوث الزراعية في سورية  
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

- \* Senior Information Specialist (Arabic)
- \* Three Information Specialists
- \* Central Librarian

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) with its headquarters in Aleppo, Syria, has the above vacancies in the Scientific and Technical Information Program.

The Senior Information Specialist (Arabic) will assist the Leader of the Program with the management of a group of about 30 persons and an annual budget of near one million US\$, and will be particularly concerned with developing ICARDA's capacity to deliver information services in Arabic, cooperating with other regional and national organizations in West Asia and North Africa, as well as with the media.

The Information Specialists will manage information services to clients throughout the world, one on lentils, one on faba beans and one on barley and durum wheat. They will produce newsletters, edit publications, manage specialized documentation systems and answer questions on the different crops.

The Centre Librarian will manage a library with a staff of four, serving ICARDA's internal needs and those of its national collaborators, will develop networks with other libraries in the region and will introduce computer-based methods for library operations.

The Senior Information Specialist and the Centre Librarian must be fluent in Arabic and have a good command of either English or French. The Information Specialists must have excellent command of English, and should have a second language, either Arabic or French.

All candidates should have qualifications in information science or should have demonstrated abilities in this profession. A strong background in agricultural science is essential for the Information Specialists and highly desirable for the other two positions.

### Conditions of Appointment

International tax-free salary based on background and experience; use of car; allowance towards housing; annual home leave; non-contributory medical insurance scheme and pension fund.

Candidates should submit two copies of their Curriculum Vitae plus names of two referees quoting Ref. No. STIP/1986 to:

Personnel Officer,  
ICARDA,  
P.O. Box 5466,  
Aleppo, Syria.







# 'Dessert' of democracy that leaves a bitter taste

By Claire Tréan

ISTANBUL — It was the end of Ramadan. Istanbul's great bazaar had spilled over right down to the banks of the Golden Horn and into neighbouring streets. The quarter was one huge seething mass of people; it was as though the whole of Istanbul had come down from the hills to enjoy the good-humoured, bustling market atmosphere that often precedes a national or religious holiday.

Despite the humid heat, traders kept up a ceaseless flow of sales patter, vaunting the merits of cheap underwear or Turkish-made copies of American jeans (the original articles are available in a few recently opened luxury stores and cost the equivalent of half a government employee's monthly pay packet).

Most vendors had no licence to sell and were openly flouting the recent legislation introduced by the mayor of Istanbul in an attempt — unsuccessful so far — to put the city back on its feet financially.

Women customers at the market, stepping delicately to avoid treading on goods laid out on the ground, were dressed in contrasting ways: some wore brightly coloured peasant costume; others were swathed from head to foot in dark scarves and grey raincoats, an urban version of Islamic dress that makes no concessions either to elegance or to Istanbul's scorching temperatures. And everywhere there were awnings of children, chubby-cheeked and clearly well-fed, who had been dressed up for the imminent festivities.

Not far from the bustle of the bazaar, in one of those oases of quiet and leafy coolness that are to be found in Istanbul, I visited a square courtyard full of bookstalls. The books were mainly religious works, with gold-tooled bindings, plus the occasional volume redolent of the 19th-century romantic fascination for travels in the Middle East.

Every stall also displayed a selection of new books, among them the latest best-sellers. These included a book by a woman about women, and a translation of the sensational account by Günter Wallraf, who disguised himself as a Turk, of what it is like to be an immigrant worker in West Germany.

Another best-seller was not available, as it had sold out — a selection of articles from the Turkish weekly, *Nokta*, one of the newspapers that has campaigned most effectively against violations of the rights of the individual over the last few months.

That day, the front pages of the daily newspapers, with their pastel colours and shrill headlines, showed a photograph of a woman student from Izmir who had been beaten up by a policeman because, in his view, her cleavage was too provocative. Not much fun, apart from the young lady, who in any case had been quite decently dressed.

The women featuring on the inside pages of the same newspapers show a great deal more of their anatomy. They are clad in just a scant bikini to ensure that the newspaper does not get into trouble with the strict new legislation governing the protection of children.

The first Turkish edition of Playboy was snapped up so quickly when it appeared on the newsstands at the end of last year that Prime Minister Turgut Özal, who has connections in religious circles, was forced to take certain counter-measures. Anything described as "pornography" by the authorities — and they cast their net very wide — now has to be packed in cellophane, and page-



three beauties have been forced to adopt less suggestive poses.

Turkey has changed much faster in recent years than has its image in Europe. The morally strict regime that took over from the generals has not succeeded in imposing itself everywhere — and has allowed little pockets of tolerance to survive.

At the same time, there has been an Islamic revival in Turkey: the mosques can no longer contain the number of worshippers who come to pray there, and the fast of Ramadan has never been so widely observed as this year.

The Turks have discovered Japanese cars and Benetton clothes, but their average income has been steadily falling (by 60 per cent in the last eight years), and wealth, has never been so unequally distributed. Before Turkey's military rulers went back to their barracks, they bequeathed an institutional straitjacket to the nation.

Yet the constitutional-cum-penal code which they elaborated in 1982 has never been so abundantly violated as now, and the secularist ethos inherited from Kemal Atatürk, of which they were the self-appointed guardians, has never been so overtly flouted in the last 80 years.

True, the Turkish police enjoy exorbitant powers; but public opinion has never been so deeply and sincerely shocked as it has been in the last few months at the outrageous treatment meted out in prisons and police stations.

It is hazardous, using European practices as a yardstick, to try to gauge how far Turkey has travelled along the road to democracy. One thing is certain: the Turkish military has had to lower its sights quite considerably since it handed over power to a civilian government in 1983.

General Kenan Evren's dream of giving Turkey an apolitical, well-ordered and conflict-free society — of the kind that only a military mind can think up — seems to have evaporated.

The generals had their *bites noires*. These included not only "terrorists" in the broadest sense, but all those who were allowing anarchy to grip the country, or who in their view, were actively encouraging it — politicians, journalists, intellectuals (especially academics), and trade union leaders.

But in a number of areas the rules have been made more flexible. Take the press. As long as they are careful to make one or two cautionary remarks when, say, attacking the military, newspapers are more or less free to do their job of informing and criticising.

Politics have changed too. The first setback suffered by the military was at the November 1983 elections, when the party specially formed to become the majority party, and headed by a general, performed disastrously (it has

since been disbanded), polling many fewer votes than the party of Prime Minister Özal.

Former parliamentary luminaries, in theory banned from the political arena until 1992, have made a noted comeback, using their henchmen (and women) as stalking horses. The former conservative prime minister, Süleyman Demirel, organises meetings, runs the True Path Party (now represented in parliament) through an intermediary, and plays host to a constant stream of party faithful at his Ankara home.

Former Social-Democrat prime minister Bülent Ecevit is the mastermind behind the party headed by his wife. Even Necmettin Erbakan, reviled by the military because of his ability to attract fundamentalist Muslims, is back on the political stage in the Prosperity Party.

The parliament that resulted from the dubious elections of 1983 has been completely transformed by the succession of splits, mergers and changes of political labels that occurred this May. It has now become more representative, as parliament includes members of virtually every party.

But by June, when the turmoil of May had died down, it was clear that many of the so-called new faces in parliament had already succumbed to the dangerous charms of political intrigue and party politicking.

General Evren, who left the army in 1982 in order to become President, wisely decided to accept something he could not prevent. As for Özal, who was spared having to call an early election by the reshuffling of alliances in parliament, he had always been in favour of pluralism, allowing, for example, all legal parties to fight the local elections of 1984. This had the effect of turning Erdal İnönü's Social Democracy Party (SODEP) into the real opposition party.

This does not add up to democracy, of course. From a strictly political point of view, Turkey's newly-fledged pluralism will take a serious buffeting in 1988 from electoral laws which work in favour of a two-party system.

There is little hope that the ban preventing the big names of Turkish politics from standing as candidates will be lifted by then. Although the press has broken free in areas which the military regime once virtually equated with national defence, the straitjacket has not yet been entirely thrown off.

"Democracy," says a close collaborator of the prime minister, "is the desert course of economically sound development." His message is clear: democratisation has its limits, and no liberalisation should be expected in areas where it might compromise the extremely austere economic policy which forms the



Özal: austere recipe.

cornerstone of Özal's overall plan for Turkey.

Özal's recipe for the country's ills — which consists of a free-market economic policy, the opening up of Turkey to international business, and financial austerity — is sticking especially firmly in the gutlet of workers and government employees because it has not yet succeeded in containing inflation (which is running at about 30 per cent). That sort of solution would be inapplicable in a comparably developed country that respected Western norms regarding trade union rights.

That is why Özal has diligently reinforced the restrictive legislation bequeathed to him by the generals, which renders strike action totally ineffective, makes it virtually illegal to form a new trade union (only one is tolerated), and which in effect disallows collective bargaining.

However, the law alone would not guarantee the lack of industrial unrest currently enjoyed by the Özal government. Statistics on unemployment and buying power have to be looked at in the light of the fact that family solidarity and the black economy are both very strong in Turkey. Moreover, while times are hard at the moment, they have never been really prosperous.

While he has clearly opted for drastic remedies as proscribed by the IMF, Özal has allowed himself some room for manoeuvre: the tax burden is cleverly modulated and social welfare funds are set up on a one-off basis whenever the heat needs taking out of the situation.

This or that tax on imported luxury goods partly finances a housing fund. VAT has been introduced, but it is subject to an ingenious system whereby consumers are partly refunded at the end of each month on presentation of their check-out tickets — a way of getting the Turks to swallow the pill by turning them into tax inspectors.

Özal's economic policy is intended to carry an educational message, as are his plans for new television channels. No doubt it will affect attitudes, though it is doubtful whether the poorest will pay much attention when urged to adopt a spirit of initiative or to accept "true" public utility rates.

For Özal, the enormous advantage of restrictions on trade union rights is that they push the radicals into the arms of the left (in the form of the SODEP led by İnönü) because they cannot make their voices heard anywhere else.

Abdullah Bastürk — former head of the leftwing trade union DISK, which was disbanded by the military regime — received a standing ovation at the SODEP congress at the end of May, while certain representatives of the diplomatic corps were booed by the audience. Despite apologies from SODEP leaders, the American ambassador preferred to leave the hall.

The left, which sees progress and secularism as inseparable, realises full well how difficult it will be to make up lost ground. Özal's bid to reconcile Islam with specifically European values in a country like Turkey, which is still groping for its true identity, must be regarded as highly audacious, if not reckless.

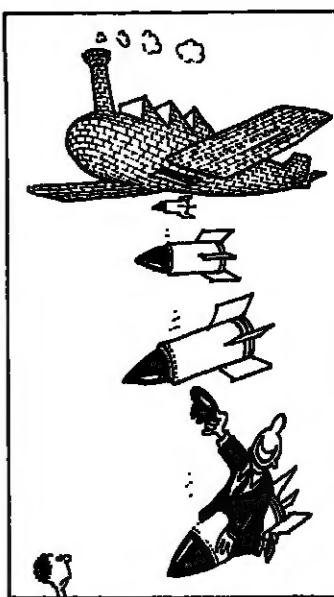
(July 4)

## Hiccups in the arms trade

By Jacques Isnard

Defence Minister André Giraud returned to Paris on Tuesday, July 22, after a round of official visits to the Gulf states — the United Arab Emirates and Qatar — and Jordan where France is hoping to sell arms in an international environment that has become intensely competitive.

Right: as Plautus sees it.



1985, while the USSR's share, which is still the largest, dropped during the same period from 37.4 to 30 per cent, and the USA lost its second place, slipping from 20.6 to 17.8 per cent.

The US Congress report puts Britain's performance down to a major contract worth \$5 billion on its own for purchasing planes that London signed with Riyadh, while British arms sales to developing countries rose to an aggregate value of \$6.5 billion last year.

Saudi Arabia is therefore indeed behind Britain's success in 1985. But the United Kingdom has become disillusioned today since it was forced to agree to renegotiate the contract with Riyadh. With the collapse of oil prices, Saudi liquidity is not what they used to be. What's more, Saudi Arabia today finds itself having to raise a loan of \$1.5 billion on the international money market — which is exceptional for it — to pay London's bill.

Similarly, analysts of French trade statistics in 1985 are expressing their satisfaction over the fact that French arms sales have been switched from the Middle East to West Europe and North America.

In fact, the arms orders received by France last year, which amounted to \$44.5 billion, came

from West Europe and North America (42 per cent of the total) and from the Maghreb and the Middle East (39 per cent). This runs against the solidly established tradition of France making between half and three-quarters of its arms sales turnover in the latter zone.

But one swallow does not make a spring, and this is just as true in the world arms trade, a phenomenon noted one year does not become a pattern. France's results show this change in the geographical distribution of arms sales, because the United States, or more accurately its army, contracted to buy from the French firm Thomson its battlefield tactical transmission system RITA. Thomson had, moreover, to agree to join manufacture of the system with US firms. On the other hand, if the official statistics for 1984 (with orders received for a total value of \$61.8 billion) indicated a record result, it was because of the \$30 billion contract signed with Saudi Arabia for anti-aircraft missiles.

Apart from this one case, that is of a customer who is pretty nearly in a monopoly situation, the pattern of French arms sales has generally remained year in, year out, dependent on one or two preferred regions, roughly always

the same, which are the Maghreb and the Middle East.

In 1985, for example, the success posted by aeronautical equipment (63 per cent of all orders received) was related to the sales of Mirage planes, especially the Mirage F-1, to the Iraqi air force. That pattern was again confirmed in 1986, judging by the determined efforts Dassault-Breguet made to sell its Mirage 2000s to the Maghreb and the Middle East (along with Morocco and Jordan), and, more recently, the Far East (Indonesia).

Incidentally, here we come upon another characteristic of the arms trade with two of France's potential customers. With Morocco, for example, the aircraft manufacturer and the government are currently engaged in a fierce controversy, with Dassault-Breguet complaining that its efforts to sell 20 to 25 Mirage 2000s to Rabat got no real support from the government because it held that Morocco was on the list of customer-countries which are practically broke. In that case, argues the industrialist, there is a big risk — and the

affront would be irreparable — of seeing the Moroccans buy American F-16s, whereas they have always been purchasing Mirages.

Next, Indonesia. In order not to miss out on selling Mirage 2000s to Jakarta in the face of competition from American F-16s and Anglo-German-Italian Tornados, Dassault offered to help Indonesia design its own fighter plane for the '90s. This is the first time the French aircraft manufacturer has thrown in engineering consultancy services to sweeten a deal, thereby contributing to strengthening a foreign national aircraft industry which tomorrow will be one of its competitors.

Given this state of affairs, which suppliers and customers are finding increasingly difficult to control, Defence Minister Giraud is making no secret of his concern about the foreseeable repercussions on the costs of the industries concerned. In particular, he is pessimistic about probable activities in the land armaments industry, which are stagnating and which he says are in a "very bad" state.

Here, as in other weapons sectors, the competition is fierce, and the technological edge enjoyed by American suppliers thanks to Pentagon research credits gives decisive advantages to the United States, where the home market is so big that it permits utilising every possible kind of dumping in export sales, including sales to Europe.

When André Giraud took over as minister of defence, he removed Emile Blanc from his job as general representative for armaments, suggesting that Blanc was too busy trying to rack up export sales and was likely to put the French government out on a limb in commercial deals. Blanc's successor, Henri Conze, has been instructed to allow industrialists to shoulder more of their own commercial responsibilities, as the defence ministry should not be doing their job for them.

(July 23)

## Facts about drugs belie the minister's concern

Minister of Justice Albin Chalandon has announced that the former Paris police prefect, Guy Fougier, would be leading an inter-ministerial mission to combat drug addiction. "The drugs scourge has assumed such proportions that it has become necessary to mobilise the whole of society to combat it," said Chalandon. Specialists, on the other hand, say that the rate of drug addiction has been slowing down in France.

much about these things.

Experience has shown that by destroying poppy or coca plantations we starve peasants, that by arresting a small pusher we also seize a victim of drug addiction, and that the big operators, in some cases connected with the machine-ery of governments, have become respectable citizens, their money, laundered, does not small.

True, combating drugs is not pointless, repression does pay off, taking charge of addicts results in cures, often as not slight improvements, but the work is slow-going, far from spectacular and disheartening. Honest establishments announce a 30 per cent rate of cures. Modest police officers acknowledge they keep drawing plenty of blanks before they succeed in smashing a ring. And most judges are apt to admit that prison is not the answer. It is a slow and difficult struggle therefore, and solutions are unlikely. For, unfortunately, there is no offer without the demand and the need to drug oneself did not arise with the development of heroin.

Must we for all that give in to the obvious and flatter the public? Drugs cause fear, they affect youth — there are practically no addicts under the age of 35 — and the very existence of addicts is felt like a threat to law and order. Is there anyone who remembers the ravages caused by drink problems, know that we do not know very

road accidents (speed is a drug), and suicides compared with the horrible picture of the addict? This is where the tragedy lies and the words for expressing it. Statistics are there to buttress it.

There are at present 6,000 addicts in French jails. In 1985, 29,750 arrests were made for violations of drug laws. These statistics need to be clarified. The number of arrests and seizures of drugs stems in part from the fact that police services responsible for combating addiction have been

strengthened. The staffs of the Office Central de Répression du Trafic des Stupéfiants (OCRTS) and the Paris drugs and vice squad have doubled in five years.

Can we speak, as the justice minister does, of a "frigidifying" increase in drug abuse? If we go by statistics alone, we see that, on the contrary, the rise in addiction has perceptibly slowed down. We cannot understand why Guy Fougier, the new head of the inter-ministerial mission on fighting addiction, tried to show the extent of the "scourge" by comparing only the 1984 and 1984 figures of deaths due to overdoses — one in 1984 and 125 in 1984.

Was the former police prefect aware of the OCRTS' report for 1985? In Paris, there were 85

deaths by overdose, that is 38 less than in the previous year. Nationwide, there were 173 deaths through overdoses in 1985 compared with 237 in 1984, that is 65 fewer deaths.

Given that roughly there is one death by overdose for 500 addicts, where did Chalandon get his figure of "100,000 heroin addicts" in France? In order to prove to what an extent "drugs are a destructive scourge of society", Chalandon put forward the argument that half the offenders in the country had committed drug-related violations or crimes.

These figures appear to be considerably exaggerated. An epidemiological study conducted by Dr Rodolphe Ingold shows that there were only between 30 and 40 per cent of addicts at the Fleury Mérégis gao, where the largest number of drugs offenders are concentrated. But Chalandon did quote from the OCRTS report to emphasise: the part played by foreigners in the narcotics trade. The reports says that "61 per cent of the persons arrested (for drug-related offences) are foreigners". But the fact remains that the number of arrests in 1985 was the lowest recorded in ten years.

Several other observations permit on the other hand to confirm reassuring statistics and diagnose a slight improvement. The number of "clients" taken in by institutions

has dropped this year by about ten per cent. There has been no repetition in Paris of the sort of explosive situation that developed in the neighbourhoods of Belleville, République and Ilot Chalon. In addition, a certain saturation of the market and a disorganisation of the retail trade can be noted.

These encouraging signs perhaps signal the success of the French "model" (of fighting addiction) promised by Dr Claude Olivenstein, who knows how to hold the balance between liberal acceptance, prevention and repression. "Addicts," he says, "have themselves become more obedient and normative. If they take barbiturates and other legal drugs, it is often so as not to fall foul of the law. When they come to us today, they don't want just to kick the habit, they want to get back into society."

Rock stars are not making as many converts as they used to. In North African circles, singers like Karim Kacel are even campaigning against drugs. All so many new attitudes and realities which for the first time in 15 years should give the authorities cause for rejoicing. So why raise the bugaboo of drugs?

(July 20/21)

**Le Monde**

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# The Washington Post

## Pakistan Halts Transfer Of Stinger Missiles To Afghans

PESHAWAR — Pakistan appears to have suspended the controversial new program to transfer U.S.-supplied Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Afghan rebels and is also limiting the deployment of a similar weapon the United States is reported to be supplying, the British-built Blowpipe, according to sources in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Pakistan, in a role it took on secretly several years ago but which has since become generally known, is the main pipeline for funneling weapons to the resistance fighters battling the Soviet occupation of their country.

The electronic heat-seeking system of the Stingers.

The mujaheddin who reported the spring development of Stingers said they had now been withdrawn. One informed Pakistani military analyst, while not confirming the Stinger deployment, said Pakistan — which controls the delivery of U.S.-supplied weapons to the mujaheddin — is now blocking the delivery of Stingers to the Afghans.

The Stinger project "was aborted at some stage of implementation," he said, because "inducting U.S. equipment means escalation. Our (government and military) people

By James Rupert

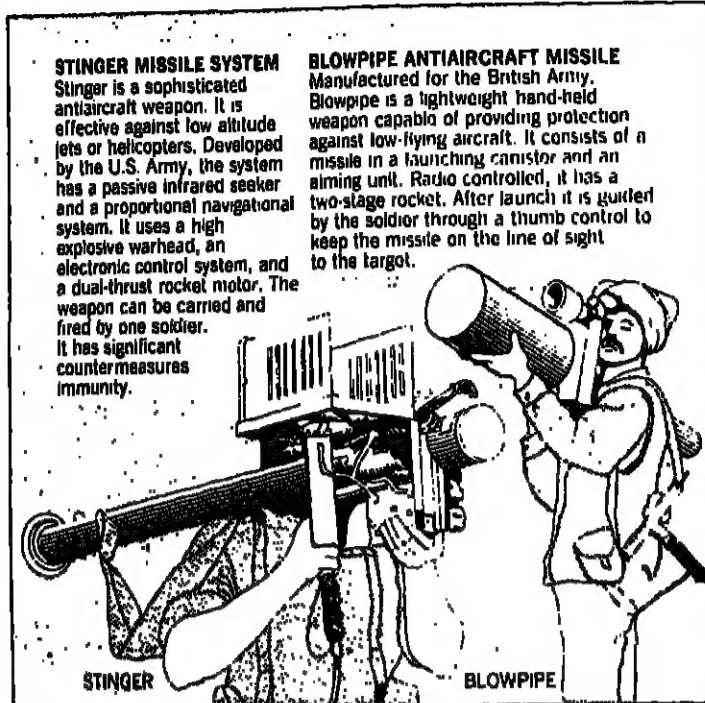
Sources here and in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, say that the new limitations on the missiles are primarily due to Pakistan's own security concerns, including worries over possible Soviet retaliation. It is not clear, these sources said, whether the suspension of the Stinger deliveries is temporary or permanent.

Aside from security concerns, there are also indications of technical problems with the Stingers. Several sources interviewed here and inside Afghanistan during a recent reporting trip spoke of Stingers having been deployed in defense of Afghan guerrilla bases in Afghanistan at Jawar in April and Jaji in May. The sources said the missiles had repeatedly misfired. A knowledgeable western observer suggested that rough handling and continuous exposure to hot sun might have damaged

are not ready for it. If the Soviets decide on a confrontation with us at some stage... we're not sure what the United States will be ready or able to do to guarantee Pakistan's security."

The Reagan administration is pressing Pakistan to allow stepped-up support for the Afghan resistance. But Pakistani officials appear fearful of cooperating, largely because they continue to doubt the United States' commitment and ability to help defend Pakistan in case of a serious threat from the Soviet Union.

In March, the Reagan administration, in a major shift of U.S. policy, decided to send the sophisticated shoulder-held Stingers to Afghan and Angolan rebels, informed sources said at the time. The shift occurred after activists in the Pentagon and the CIA, backed



SOURCE: JAMES INFANTRY WEAPONS

by conservatives in the Senate and elsewhere, overcame opposition by State Department officials, as well as some officials in the CIA, it was reported.

Opponents of the shift argued that introducing U.S.-made arms into Third World conflicts would escalate those struggles into U.S.-Soviet confrontations and that there were no guarantees that such advanced weaponry would not fall into terrorist hands. But in the interagency deliberations that

led to the policy change, those concerns were overcome by the argument that, in Afghanistan's case, the anti-communist forces were in dire need of anti-aircraft missiles to defend against Soviet helicopter gunships and jets.

Although the Blowpipe is British-made, there is no evidence of a direct British role in their transfer or use in Afghanistan. All suggestions from Afghan and Pakistani sources are that the Blowpipe is being supplied by the U.S.-spon-

sored arms pipeline. Western diplomats in Islamabad suggested that the United States purchased the Blowpipes directly from Britain.

The Pakistani and Afghan sources agreed that the missiles had proved largely ineffective. Pakistani and western military analysts suggested the major problem was inexperienced operators, although several sources said some missiles experienced technical problems.

One westerner described a videotape made by the mujaheddin that appeared to show a Blowpipe being fired and exploding just underneath a Soviet SU-25 ground attack jet. "The mujaheddin have no weapon in their arsenal that will catch a jet and explode near it," the western source said. "But the Blowpipe can be fitted with a proximity fuse, which would be the logical thing if you're giving it to inexperienced people, whose aim is not very good." A western military specialist suggested that, set to explode in proximity to aircraft, the Blowpipes have proved no powerful enough to destroy SU-25s, which are armored on the underside.

Unconfirmed reports from Afghan sources here said the Pakistani military, anxious to prevent the fall of the mujaheddin bases just on the Afghan side of the border, had sent officers into Afghan territory to fire the missiles. Although Pakistan denies any role in aiding the mujaheddin, a western diplomat in Islamabad said Pakistani officers "are known to go inside" Afghanistan.

By Allister Sparks

But for all except the estimated 1.75 million of the 9 million members of the Xhosa, Tswana and Venda tribes that have independent homelands, life will be more difficult than before, Duncan said.

Under the old system, every black person was required to carry a pass at all times and could be arrested if he or she failed to produce it to a police officer on demand. Pass raids were commonplace, and more than 2,000 blacks were arrested every day. The "passes" certified that the black person was entitled to be in what is officially regarded as white South Africa — the 87 percent of the country reserved for occupation by the white minority of 4.8 million and in which the smaller colored (mixed race) and Asian minorities recently have been granted subordinate political rights.

The 28 million blacks were assigned to 10 small and fragmented tribal homelands, whether they lived there or not. These regions together make up the remaining 13 percent of South Africa's land area and exclude all the industrially developed areas.

Blacks could gain the right of permanent residence in white South Africa, where all the jobs are, if they were born there, or worked there for the same employer for 10 consecutive years. If they worked for different employers, they were required to work for 15 years without a break.

Any other black person could be a migrant laborer, working on a renewable one-year contract, leaving his family behind in the tribal territory.

Johan Pretorius, director of migration at the Department of Home Affairs, confirmed at a news conference in Pretoria that the government's priority would be "to protect employment opportunities for its citizens," excluding the homeland aliens.

Duncan also believes that what she calls the "bantu factor" of obtaining work permits and subsequent extensive paperwork involved in employing aliens from the independent homelands will cause employers to avoid them and hire workers with citizenship rights instead. "With all the bureaucracy involved, the homelander are going to find it much harder to get jobs, and unemployment in those regions is going to soar," Duncan said.

But this will not show up in South Africa's official statistics because the homelands are regarded as foreign countries. Statistically, Duncan points out, government employment reports will reflect an apparent improvement because more citizens will be employed at the expense of the homelander.

The opposition Progressive Federal Party maintains that the government gave an informal undertaking when the reform bills were being studied by a parliamentary committee earlier this year that workers from the independent homelands would be exempted from the Aliens Act, which requires foreigners to get work permits. "There has been a clear breach of an undertaking given by government officials to the standing committee," said Nt. Olivier, the party's chief research officer and a key member of the opposition team in the committee.

But officials say they are doing no more than spelling out the implications of legislation passed by the white-dominated parliament. Duncan agreed. "We have been pointing out all along that too many people were exaggerating what was being done instead of looking at the fine print of the law," she said. This underlines a complaint made frequently by people like Duncan, that in their eagerness to find cause for optimism in the South African situation, many concerned observers, including outsiders like President Reagan, often read more into Pretoria's stated intentions than is justified.

Duncan is careful to give credit for what has been done. The changes to the pass laws and influx control regulations, she said, have meant a "marked improvement" in the circumstances of two-thirds of South Africa's total black population of 28 million.

For the 19 million who do not belong to the tribes that have nominally independent homelands, there is now much greater freedom of movement. These blacks no longer need official permission to work anywhere they like in South Africa, and they are free to go anywhere in the country to look for work, which they were not allowed to do before.

However, they are still restricted by residential segregation laws to living in townships demarcated for blacks only, and they can use only segregated state institutions, such as schools and hospitals. They must also have "house permits" showing that they are authorized to live in a particular house in the segregated townships.

## The Washington Post

## Strategy For Slow Times

IF THE AMERICAN economy keeps growing only slowly (and that seems likely) Congress may have to reconsider its rigid budget strategy. Low growth means that the tax laws won't raise as much money as Congress expected because incomes and profits won't be as high as it had assumed. And that means larger deficits. One response is to keep cutting the other side of the budget, spending, until the deficit is back within the legal limits set by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act. But that would raise its own dangers.

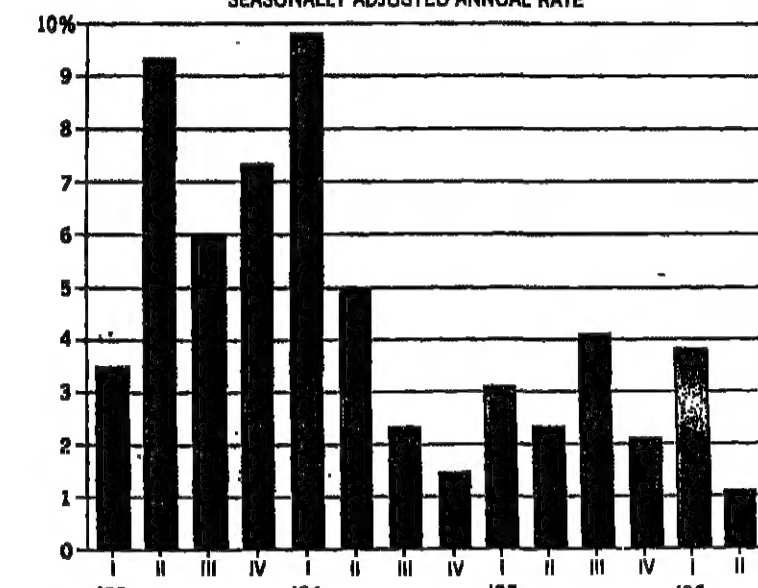
If the economy is growing slowly to begin with, and the deficit is cut sharply, that would tend to make growth slower than ever. That risks another shortfall of revenues, requiring another round of spending cuts and so forth in a vicious spiral leading to a recession — in which the G-R-H limits would be suspended and deficits would soar.

A better solution might be to suspend the deficit limits and instead target spending alone, holding it flat at its present levels. There would be no further spending cuts for next year, regardless of revenue shortfalls. But there would be no spending increases, now or later, until the deficit was safely back on the G-R-H track.

Things haven't yet come to that point. The economy still invites budget-tightening, preferably through a tax increase. It is essential to get the deficit down, even at the cost of a taste of the austerity that this

## REAL GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER  
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ANNUAL RATE



SOURCE: Commerce Dept.

country has been preaching to its Latin American friends. In this decade, Keynesian economics won't work in its accustomed way. For example if a budget deficit stimulates economic growth, why is the country's growth rate declining while its gigantic budget deficit grows even larger? The answer is that, utterly unexpectedly to most Americans, the budget deficit has created its own counterforce in the form of an almost equally gigantic trade deficit. One presses toward higher growth, the other presses against it, and at present they nearly offset each other.

That's why the United States can't speed up growth simply by spending more and widening the budget deficit. To increase demand does not necessarily increase production — in this country. The difference between the two is the trade deficit. Similarly, to restrict demand does not necessarily restrict American production — not if the trade deficit is falling. But the way to get the trade deficit down is to get the budget deficit down first.

The United States has got itself into a bad position, and cannot extricate itself easily, or entirely painlessly. It is crucial to avoid a recession and yet the familiar Keynesian preventive, an increase in government spending, is now worse than useless. If the G-R-H budget deficit limits should turn out at some point to be impossible to hit, the alternative is to hold spending flat and let revenues swing with the tides of the economy. The deficit would not come down as swiftly as Congress had hoped, but it would come down more surely.

## Up To Europe, Japan

PAUL A. VOLCKER, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has a double message for the people who make the world's economic policy. For the Americans, he offered a warning that they can't afford to resolve their gigantic trade deficit until they bring their federal budget deficit down. The trade deficit generates a flow of foreign lending that the United States needs to finance its dangerously unbalanced budget. Without that foreign lending, interest rates would soar. The flood of imports into this country is damaging American manufacturing industry. But neither the president nor Congress can do anything of significance to help the manufacturers as long as their domestic budget continues to require vast loans.

It's likely that the budget deficit will at least begin to decline next year. With that in mind, Mr. Volcker delivered another kind of warning to "the rest of the industrial world" — essentially Japan and Germany. That enormous American budget deficit has pushed up demand, much of which is being supplied from the rest of the world — that's the trade deficit. Japan and Europe have become highly dependent on their exports to the United States. If demand here drops along with the budget deficit,

the only sensible response by the other industrial countries is to speed up their own internal economies to compensate. But so far they have adamantly resisted. If they persist, demand will fall worldwide. Mr. Volcker didn't say it (he didn't have to) but that is the definition of a world recession.

Why do Europe and Japan refuse to respond, in defiance of their own clear interests? Every government is reluctant to acknowledge, before its own voters, that in economic matters it is far from sovereign. Each, including the United States, is heavily dependent on its neighbors and trading partners — a thought that grates on the common idea of independence. The whole delicate subject is usually left to professors and to politicians safely in retirement. Mr. Volcker is one of the few people in high office, in this country or any other, who makes it his business to keep reminding the world of the realities on which everybody's prosperity depends.

He was testifying before Congress, with a large and intent audience listening above all for hints about future interest rates. With the budget tightly locked in by law, monetary policy is about the only part of the economic steering mechanism that is still movable. But large reductions in interest rates are inadvisable, Mr. Volcker said, because of concerns about inflation and the exchange rate. And, in his view, fiddling with minor changes in interest can't do much for economic growth in this country, much less abroad. To keep the expansion going will take much more forceful action, most of it in capitals other than this one.

## Mexican Debt Agreement

THE MEXICAN DEBT agreement is a victory for common sense. It's by no means a final victory, for it represents only one step in the management of Mexico's enormous foreign debt and Mexico's return to economic growth. But things are now moving in the right direction, and that's enormously important to the United States. As a matter of foreign policy, Mexico's stability ranks second only to the Soviet strategic relationship in its significance to Americans in the coming decade.

Under this agreement the lenders will make extraordinary concessions to Mexico, and Mexico will make extraordinary efforts in its own behalf. The agreement, signed by Mexico and the International Monetary Fund with the active support of the World Bank and the Reagan administration, does not merely try to help Mexico carry its present debts. Mexico has to be able to carry them in terms that will permit its economy to expand, and that will permit it to continue to borrow. The drop in the price of oil has made Mexico's borrowing requirements imperative.

Mexico, on its part, has apparently abandoned demands for interest rates below market levels, which would threaten higher interest rates to the banks' other borrowers. Beyond that kind of negotiating concession, Mexico is now moving steadily ahead with the most profound kind of internal reforms. It is closing money-losing state-owned enterprises. It is beginning to dismantle the protectionist practices that preserve highly profitable inefficiency for well-connected businessmen. President Miguel de la Madrid and his government are already paying a substantial political price for these reforms, and Americans should not underestimate the risks that Mr. de la Madrid is running.

It's far from certain that the commercial banks will go along and put up their half of the \$12 billion in new loans that the agreement would provide over the next 18 months. But the best bet is that, with the usual grumbling, they will cooperate. Otherwise, if there were a Mexican default, they might well be blamed for it. None of the American banks is likely to expose itself to the consequences of that — not with the U.S. Treasury actively supporting the agreement. If the American banks cooperate, the Japanese and Europeans will follow.

None of that can guarantee success. The present phase of Mexico's distress is wholly down to one unpredictable event, the sudden collapse of oil prices last winter, and no doubt other unpredictable events lie ahead. But the agreement demonstrates that the international system — meaning Mexico, the Reagan administration and the IMF — are capable of dealing skillfully with an international economic crisis of the greatest urgency.

## The Old S. Africa Policy

MR. REAGAN got it wrong in his South Africa speech last week. Something new was needed: something to make it clear not only that he feels the great wrong of apartheid but also that he is not letting pride stand in the way of an evolution of policy. Yet for all the strong words he mustered about apartheid, he still does not convey anything like the urgency its victims feel for getting out from under it. He still apparently believes there is time, political space and company to go on with business as usual. This attitude threatens to leave him marooned behind onrushing events in South Africa and here at home.

There is a disconcerting rigidity to Mr. Reagan's thinking. Somehow he has got the sanctions question framed in artificial either/or terms. "We must stay and work," he said, "not cut and run." In fact, if Mr. Reagan were going to fulfill the promise of stay and work, he would have committed the United States to an expanding dialogue with the African National Congress, one of the key groups with which the Pretoria government must negotiate on a basis of full equality. In any event, it pins a false rap on sanctions to identify them with cut and run. Unenforceable, indiscriminate sanctions of the sort the House adopted in a fit of theatrics and distraction may deserve that label, but sanctions like those recommended by the recent British Commonwealth mission belong to a sensible stay-and-work policy. The Commonwealth would cut at the travel, financial options, and psychological ease of whites but exclude controls on the metals of strategic value to the West. It anticipates not the destruction of South Africa's economy but its temporary, though considerable, dislocation.

The Reagan speech unhappily aggravates and advertises divisions in Washington. The silver lining is that it may have the practical effect of drawing the Republican-controlled Senate into a larger role. Moderates such as Richard Lugar and Nancy Kassebaum favor an effort to keep up with fast-moving political currents and to steel them by application of particular sanctions in stages. This is the approach the president might have taken in order to retain control of American policy. He stands increasingly to lose control now.

Other black leaders, some of whom are in hiding to avoid detention under the emergency regulations, expressed fears that the government would now feel it was safe from any serious prospect of sanctions and would track down more severely than ever on black activists.

## Reagan Delights Pretoria

PRETORIA — White South Africans reacted with surprise and delight to President Reagan's speech last week rejecting economic sanctions as a way to force an end to the government's policy of apartheid, but black leaders were furious at what they regarded as a major letdown by the West.

The government's satisfaction over the Reagan speech was also heightened by its timing, coming just hours before the arrival of British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe on a mission from the European Community that is also aimed at trying to avert economic sanctions against Pretoria.

The government's sense of relief was palpable, as officials, who have been increasingly anxious recently under the strain of the continuing racial conflict and foreign condemnation, smiled and joked. Foreign Minister, P. W. Botha issued a statement welcoming Reagan's speech and suggesting that it opened the way for South Africa to have talks "at the highest level" with the United States and other countries "regarding the realities of Southern Africa." This was followed by a chorus of statements from white business leaders lauding the Reagan speech as "a note of realism" and saying U.S. opposition to sanctions would help South Africa develop a stable society. "I think the most important thing about President Reagan's speech is that it has lifted a siege mentality that had

By Allister Sparks

taken hold here," said Carl Noffke, a former Washington-based diplomat who is now director of the Institute of American Studies at Johannesburg's Rand Afrikaans University.

Noffke said he believes the administration of President Botha had resigned itself to the inevitability of sanctions and was adopting a "to hell with the world" attitude. The government expected Reagan to announce a tough new policy to replace "constructive engagement," and the sense of relief when he did not has dispelled the siege mentality, Noffke said.

"Now there is a feeling that we have at least two friends in the world (Reagan and Thatcher) who are willing to listen before they introduce any sanctions."

Noffke also said the administration now feels its action in declaring a state of emergency has been justified. It had taken this tough action expecting that it would produce a strong international reaction and probably sanctions, but the attitude adopted by Reagan and Thatcher has shown that the worst was not going to happen. Reagan had "done a great public relations job" for South Africa by stressing the country's importance to the West before an audience of millions. "He did a better job for us than we have ever been able to do for ourselves," the former diplomat said.

Bishop Tutu, however, was not mollified by Reagan's sharp criticism of apartheid during his speech. "I think it's quite disgusting to express ritual abhorrence of apartheid and then to hear all this nonsense that we will be the first ones to suffer from sanctions."

Other black leaders, some of whom are in hiding to avoid detention under the emergency regulations, expressed fears that the government would now feel it was safe from any serious prospect of sanctions and would track down more severely than ever on black activists.

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## Averell Harriman, Tireless Champion Of Better Relations

W. AVERELL HARRIMAN, whose service to the nation in peace and war was unique in its breadth and longevity, died on Saturday last week at the age of 94.

For half a century, as the agent of presidents or as elder statesman, Harriman was at the center of efforts to establish practical working relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. He was one of the first to warn of the dangers of Soviet expansion at the end of World War II, and later he was one of the first to champion reduced tension between the two superpowers in order to avert World War III. That brought him under political attack first as a war hawk, then as a naive dove, but his objectives never changed.

In 1963 he negotiated the first major arms control pact between the United States and the Soviet Union, the Limited Test Ban Treaty, prohibiting nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water.

The offices he held ranged from ambassador to Moscow and London to secretary of commerce, governor of New York, undersecretary of state, and negotiator on wars in Laos and Vietnam. Above all, he was a matchless behind-the-scenes envoy, ready to circle the globe for Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, or any other president who asked him.

When they ceased asking, Harriman went on his own. In June 1983, when he was 91, with sight, hearing and voice all failing, but with his determination undiminished, he made his last mission to Moscow, to meet with Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov. He

pragmatic power terms the Soviet leadership saw him as a select member of the inner circle controlling the United States, with the influence to deliver what he promised to a far greater degree than any professional diplomat.

Admirers, and critics, tried various labels to describe the Harriman style: "Honesty the Hair-splitter" for resourcefully marshaling technicalities to reinforce his arguments; "Available Ave" for his readiness to dash around the world at a president's signal, and above all, "The Crocodile," for striking out unexpectedly to chop off an opponent's muddled argument.

The Harriman willingness to take on lofty or mundane assignments gave him an exceptional mixture of experiences. His major posts were: Chief of the materials branch, Office of Production Management, 1940-41; special representative of the President in London for lend-lease and other wartime agencies, plus special missions to the U.S.S.R., 1941-43; ambassador to the Soviet Union, 1943-46; ambassador to Britain, 1946; secretary of commerce, 1946-48; U.S. ambassador in Europe for the Marshall Plan, 1948-50; special assistant to the president, 1950-51; director, Mutual Security Agency, 1951-52; governor of New York, 1955-58; ambassador-at-large, 1961, and again in 1965-68; assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs, 1961-63; undersecretary of state for political affairs, 1963-66; delegation chief, Vietnam negotiations in Paris, 1968-69; and chairman, foreign policy task force, advisory council, Democratic National Committee, since 1974.

By Murray Marder

was driven to that journey by apprehension over the great gulf between the men in the Kremlin and the Reagan administration. He outlived Andropov, as he had outlived the Russian predecessors: Josef Stalin, Nikita S. Khrushchev and Leonid I. Brezhnev. He had bargained with each of them through the high and low points in U.S.-Soviet relations.

In October 1982, at the dedication of the W. Averell Harriman Institute for Advanced Study at Columbia University, which he launched with a \$10 million endowment, Harriman deplored "so much misinformation" about the Soviet Union circulating in the United States, "beginning with those in the highest authority of government."

"In looking back over my experience of some 50 years with the Soviet Union," he wrote in 1975 in the foreword to his partial memoirs, "Special Envoy to Churchill and Stalin, 1941-1946," "I find that my basic judgments remain little altered, although conditions have changed radically. I have been attacked for those judgments from both ends of the political spectrum. Some have called me a warmonger; others denounced me as too soft on communism. I continue to maintain, as in 1945, that in ideology there is no prospect of compromise between the Kremlin and ourselves, but that we must find ways to settle as many areas of conflict as possible in order to live together on this small planet without war."

His experience with the Soviet Union went back almost to its beginnings. He missed meeting Lenin, but not Leon Trotsky, whose "boldness" during a four-hour business meeting, Harriman later concluded, "may have been due to his difficult situation at the time" — 1925. Trotsky by then had lost his power struggle with Stalin and was headed for exile and subsequent assassination.

Harriman, then 35, had gone to the Soviet Union to inspect a manganese mining concession in the Caucasus Mountains in which he and other Americans had invested. He left the Soviet Union convinced that Lenin's revolution was "not the wave of the future," and wrote in 1970: "Nothing has happened since to alter my conviction that the Bolshevik Revolution, for all its manifest achievements, has been on balance a tragic step backward in human development." But, he concluded, "For better or worse the Soviet regime was here to stay."

That early encounter with the Soviet system gave the young Harriman an invaluable cachet for dealing with its leaders in subsequent decades. To them, the patrician Harriman, the son of one of America's wealthiest industrial families, was the stereotype of capitalism. While that made him the arch-enemy ideologically, in

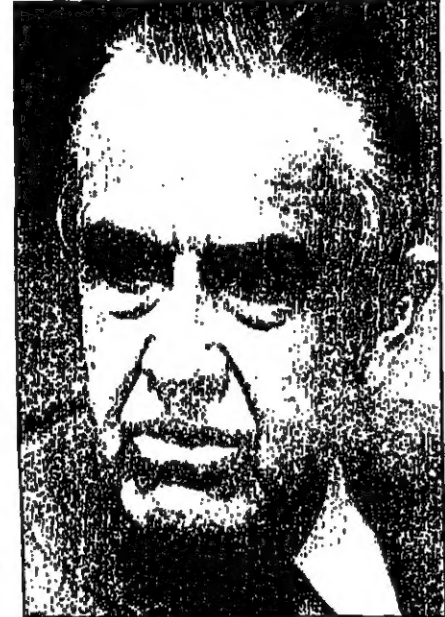
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"traitors to their class," established their own trusting relationship.

Hopkins took Harriman out of the Office of Production Management in March 1941, and sent him to London, Moscow and other war fronts as the president's special representative. He attended the Atlantic Charter meeting between Roosevelt and Winston Churchill in 1941, and all but one of the major World War II conferences. He was with Churchill and Stalin in Moscow in 1942; with Roosevelt and Churchill at Casablanca in 1943; with Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek at Cairo in 1943, and the same year with the western Big Two and Stalin at Tehran; with Stalin, Churchill and Anthony Eden in Moscow in 1944; at Yalta in 1945, and at Potsdam that year with President Truman, after FDR's death.

After Germany attacked the Soviet Union at the end of June 1941, Hopkins was sent on the first mission by FDR to explore Stalin's military requirements, followed by Britain's Lord Beaverbrook and Harriman, who reached Moscow when the Nazi advance was threatening the Soviet capital.



Averell Harriman

Harriman reported that Stalin bluntly told him in October 1945, as the wartime victory was achieved, that "we've decided to go our own way." After having been one of the most energetic advocates of wartime aid to Russia, Harriman had sounded the alarm in Washington as early as Sept. 9, 1944. He cabled that the Soviet leaders "have misinterpreted our general attitude toward them as an acceptance of their policies and a sign of weakness. . . . There is every indication that unless we take issue with the present policy the Soviet Union will become a world bully wherever their interests are involved."

In March 1948, on his return from Moscow, Harriman was asked if he thought war with Russia was inevitable. "I most certainly do not," he replied, "but it depends primarily on us. There will be no war if we, as a country, remain strong, physically and spiritually." He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that "Russia does not want war, especially with the United States. However, that doesn't mean that war can be averted" if the Soviet Union overreaches.

His subsequent service as ambassador to London was a brief six months, with President Truman recalling him to replace Henry A. Wallace as secretary of Commerce after Wallace publicly opposed any "get tough with Russia" policy as pandering to "British imperialism." In succeeding years, as Harriman supported the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and became the European director of the Marshall Plan, it was his turn to be denounced by Moscow as a "warmonger" and agent of "American imperialism."

In 1950 and 1951, Harriman was Truman's special advisor on foreign affairs. One of his tasks was to accompany the president to Wake Island to parley with imperious Gen. Douglas MacArthur. When Truman dismissed MacArthur for insubordination, part of the Republican wrath broke over Harriman's head in the resulting Senate inquiry. There were angry charges, which Harriman adamantly denied, that FDR and his subordinates were duped into a "sellout" of vital Western interests at Yalta.

The Yalta furor recurred again in 1955

when Secretary of State John Foster Dulles released the secret record. That record substantiated Harriman's personal firmness, showing that when Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov requested a \$6 billion, 30-year loan, Harriman recommended to FDR that it should be tied to the Soviet Union's international behavior.

Harriman's readiness to search for ease of East-West confrontation after Stalin led him to see both opportunities and dangers in the transition to Khrushchev's more venturesome leadership. In 1959, in a brief book entitled "Peace With Russia?" based on talks with Khrushchev in the Soviet Union, Harriman advocated "all-out competitive coexistence" with communism.

With the election of President Kennedy, Harriman gained an opportunity to explore his theses, starting with Laos, from his new post of assistant secretary of State for Far Eastern affairs. For 15 months, in 1961 and 1962, Harriman negotiated intensively at a 14-nation conference in Geneva, and in shuttle trips to Southeast Asia, to achieve an agreement on Laotian neutrality. It was never put into effect because North Vietnam never withdrew its forces from Laos. What the United States gained was alignment with Premier Souvanna Phouma as the "neutralist" leader of the country.

Next came an opportunity that followed the flare-up in U.S.-Soviet relations over Berlin in 1961 and the Cuban nuclear missile confrontation of October 1962. This was the major East-West agreement in the post-war era, the U.S.-Soviet nuclear test ban treaty prohibiting above-ground nuclear explosions. Harriman headed the U.S. negotiators in Moscow.

From 1963 to January 20, 1969, when he left office with the Johnson administration, the Vietnam War was the preoccupying, frustrating subject for Harriman. As a senior State Department official, he shared responsibility for clearing a disputed August 1963 cable that is blamed or praised, as the case may be, for helping to encourage the overthrow of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem in November 1963.

When United States-North Vietnamese peace talks finally did begin in Paris in May 1968, following a partial halt in the bombing of North Vietnam, Harriman led the American delegation. He was determined to negotiate an end to what he regarded as a war long past justification in its costs to the United States.

In secret negotiations, with the Russians operating as intermediaries, Harriman was obliged to bargain with his low conciliatory supporters in Washington, as well as with the unyielding South Vietnamese, plus the North Vietnamese adversaries. When a breakthrough with the North Vietnamese finally was achieved, Saigon balked. The South Vietnamese succeeded in stretching the small start of the new talks into the Nixon administration. Said Ambassador Harriman: "We were agnostic in Paris."

Harriman carried with him into private life his determined activism. In lectures and speeches and as chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee's International Affairs Committee, he deplored the continuing Indochina war as "a national tragedy. . . . Inevitably, he came under political counter-attack. The blows were sharp, and also sometimes low. Vice President Spiro T. Agnew charged that "Harriman's penchant for trusting communists has cost some people their freedom and others their lives."

Harriman was in no way deflected by Agnew. Indeed, by 1971 the Washington establishment had become so accustomed to his durability that there was comparatively little surprise when, at the age of 79, he married his third wife, Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward, then 51. (His wife of 40 years, the former Marie Norton Whitney, died in September 1970. An earlier marriage to Kitty Lander Lawrence, with whom he had two daughters, ended in divorce in 1923.)

Harriman was noted for his driving demands on associates, who found that his energy almost always exceeded theirs, whatever their age. He also could be the gentlest of men. A State Department colleague recalled that once, on a typically grueling Harriman trip, "there we were, flying over the Black Sea and everyone asleep. Then here comes the old man, in his robe, tip-toeing up and down the aisle of the plane putting blankets over everyone like a father taking care of his children. . . . That was the soft underbelly of 'The Crocodile.'"

## Conversations With Castro's Captives

By Tad Szulc

AGAINST ALL HOPE. The Prison Memoirs of Armando Valladares. By Armando Valladares. Translated from the Spanish by Andrew Hurley. Knopf, 381pp. \$18.95. TWENTY YEARS AND FORTY DAYS. Life in a Cuban Prison. By Jorge Valls. Americas Watch Committee. 125pp. Paperback, \$8.

A GULAG SOUTH exists in Cuba under the socialist revolution launched by Fidel Castro over 27 years ago, and in terms of prison networks for real or alleged "political" offenders, it appears to rank high along with Soviet and South African gulags.

The memoirs by Armando Valladares and Jorge Valls (who were imprisoned for, respectively, 22 and 20 years on vague charges of being "counter-revolutionary" citizens) are frightening and numbing guidebooks to the immense Cuban penal system through which each of them was processed as if from ring to ring in Dante's *Inferno*.

Valladares and Valls, who never met in the course of their endless and parallel transfers from prison



Armando Valladares

to prison, were among tens of thousands of "politicals" serving long sentences during the '60s and '70s. Today, there are probably between 150 and 200 political prisoners left in Cuban penal centers, some of them held for over a quarter-century, but because there is no way of verifying it, the number could be much higher.

The most striking aspect of the Cuban gulag, apart from the extraordinary inhumanity and cruelty described by Valladares and Valls and other released prisoners, is the irrationality, capriciousness and cynicism with which it is operated. In thousands upon thousands of cases, it was never clear why one prisoner was sentenced to 10 years and another to 30 years for allegedly similar offenses (for example, why many of them were re-sentenced without being informed of it, and why captured anti-Castro guerrillas sometimes fared better than mere critics of the regime).

The cynicism is reflected in the way in which the regime uses the prisoners for foreign policy and public relations purposes. Again, Valladares and Valls are examples of this practice. Valladares, whose health was shattered in prison by malnutrition, near-starvation, beatings, solitary confinements and psychological torture, was released in 1982, after a personal intervention by Francois Mitterrand, the socialist president of France. This was the culmination of an international campaign on his behalf, following the publication in Europe of poems Valladares had smuggled out of prison. He had been imprisoned for

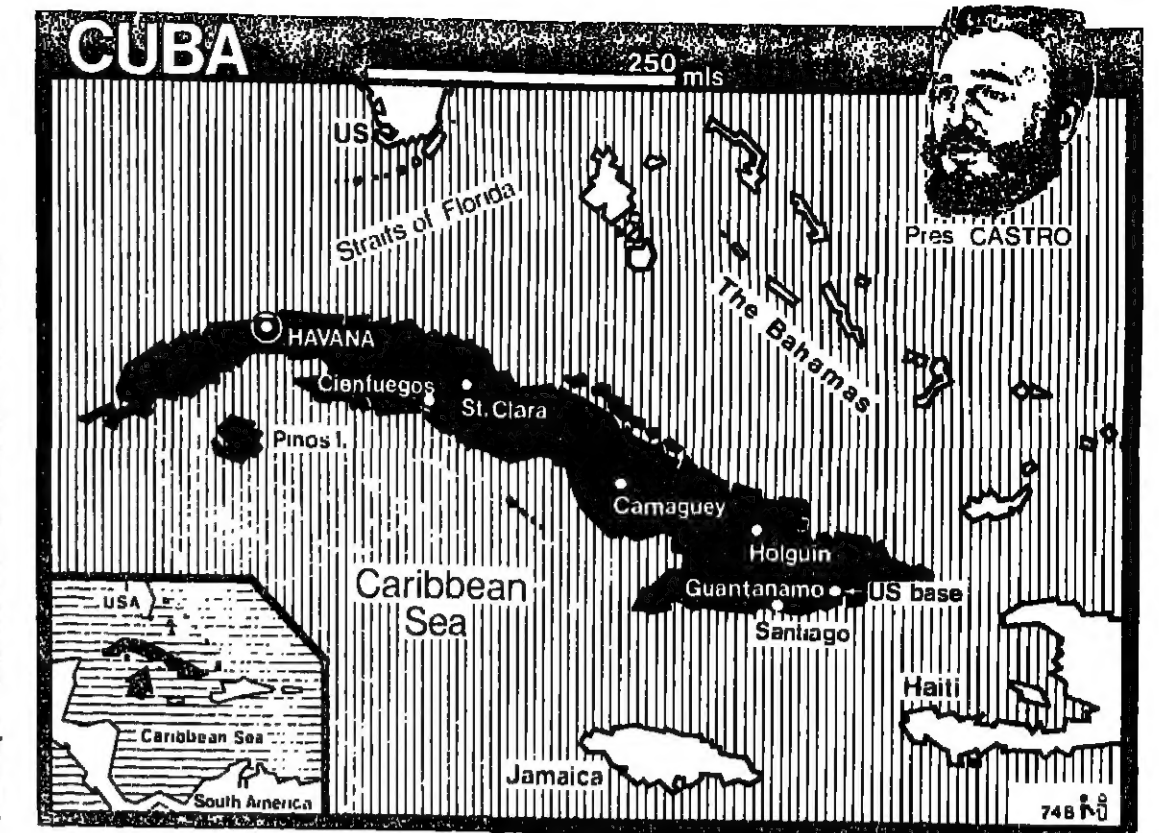
unspecified acts of "public destruction and sabotage" when he was a 23-year-old employee in the Postal Savings Service. He was outspokenly anti-communist, but had no political involvement.

Valls was freed in 1984, also as a result of international pressure: his smuggled poems had won five European prizes. He had fought in the anti-Batista underground, knew Fidel Castro personally as a university student, and, ironically, his imprisonment may have resulted from his court testimony in favor of a former colleague with Communist Party links executed for betraying fellow conspirators to the military dictatorship's secret police.

What the two men had in common, then, was the benefit of foreign pressure on Castro to let them go, an advantage not enjoyed by other hard-core political prisoners who have stayed behind. There are other forms of such cynicism: the release of prisoners to famous foreign visitors to obtain favorable headlines. A group was given to the Rev. Jesse Jackson in 1984; 17 hard-core prisoners were delivered like a going-away gift to the French explorer Jacques Cousteau, who went deep-sea diving with Castro earlier this year; and the last Bay of Pigs invasion prisoner was recently presented to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

Reading about the absolute hopelessness surrounding the other prisoners in the Cuban gulag, one can appreciate the luck of the men blessed by foreign attention. But one can also appreciate the luck of Fidel Castro in escaping, when he was a political prisoner more than 30 years ago, the sort of treatment that Valladares and Valls endured in the very same cells.

I remember, for example, accompanying Castro last year on a tour of the "model" prison on the Isle of Youth (then the Isle of Pines), including the large cell where he was kept in solitary confinement for many months. Now a shrine, the cell contains the bookcase where Castro had his books, the hot plate on which he told of preparing spaghetti for himself, and a bed with mosquito netting. The Castro regime's prisoners on



the Isle of Youth, as Valladares and Valls recount their passage there at different times in the '60s, were overcrowded in small cells (sometimes in "drawers" where a man could only lie, dumped in pools of human excrement, beaten with bayonets, and deprived of the last shred of human dignity).

The incredible disparity between the treatment accorded Castro and his companions, who had set out to overthrow the Batista dictatorship, and that dispensed to Castro's prisoners, whose guilt ranges from the same ambition to change the Cuban government to petty badmouthing of the revolution, raises the fundamental question of standards and legitimacy. Castro takes the view that he had the right to attempt to oust Batista (and most Cubans agreed with him at the time) because the dictatorship was illegitimate, and therefore it was acting illegally in imprisoning the rebels. On the other hand, he insists, the revolution and Marxism-Leninism in Cuba are legitimate because, in effect, he says so (the bulk of the prisoners were under detention before the 1976 socialist constitution was approved by a referendum).

Of the two books, the Valladares account is more interesting and arresting because of the relentless detail of inhumanity to prisoners it presents. The horror is so great and repetitious as to become almost monotonous as, page after page, Valladares tells the tale of Cuban prisons. It is unfortunate, however, that he, too, misrepresents history in many instances. To cite one, it is not true that Castro's rebels murdered patients in a military hospital at the Moncada barracks in Santiago at the time of their first uprising in 1953. Accuracy does not detract from credibility; inaccuracy dam-

ages the broader story. During my stay in Cuba last year, the subject of the Valladares book came up in many conversations with government officials. Aware of the immense damage in prestige this book had caused Cuba among Western European intellectuals (it evidently did not occur to Havana that Valladares would publish his indictment), these officials sought to portray him as an unstable, morally unsavory and aridly unworthy person to whom no attention should be paid. "Twenty-seven years after the revolution, however, the time may have come for the outside world to pay attention to the Cuban gulag system. According to the Americas Watch Committee's statistics, there are still at least 110 hard-core political prisoners after the releases through June 1986, most of whom have been incarcerated for a quarter-century. Then there are many hundreds more in relatively benign 'political rehabilitation programs,' kept together with common criminals. Why?"

Not surprisingly, Castro uses the argument of every regime in power: the regime's existence is in

## Fidel's Infidelity To The Truth

to see it truly. And only now does the mass of Cubans become concretely aware of the unjust incarceration and inhuman torture of their fellow citizens, thanks to the 10 programs based on the book broadcast to Cuba earlier this year by the American government's Radio Marti.

The American right, to account for the broader public's ignorance of Cuban prisons, pounces on what it sees as the propensity of American liberals to view Castro through rose-colored glasses — for considerations of sympathy, "peace," guilt, radical chic or whatever.

The left, which is embarrassed but perhaps not as much as it ought to be, cites circumstances. For instance, it is suggested apologetically that when the American human rights movement got up steam in the 1970s, it was necessary to have the immediate and gory outrages of right-wing regimes. Others suggest that the few releases of prisoners Castro has made recently, and the current possibility of negotiating the emigration of other Cuban prisoners,

finally sensitized our public to the issue. It is evident that Ronald Reagan has presided over changes in the political atmosphere that have finally made Castro's crimes both fair and necessary game — and not only for Americans concerned with human rights but perhaps increasingly for Latins, whom Castro is otherwise so ready to instruct in anti-Yankee ways. But there is another consideration, one that goes to the peculiar relationship between politics and literature.

I had lunch with Armando Valladares in 1982 a few weeks after Castro released him in response to an appeal by French President Francois Mitterrand. Valladares had written prison poems; the French are good about appealing for poets. Valladares was thin and gaunt, a man of sad eyes and halting speech, quiet and rather calm, strangely dispassionate; a victim of a terrible system, but — how unfair it is to say this about him — not a compelling figure or one with what seemed to me a compelling story. I recall thinking he was still sick and tired and in a "strange

place; translation added another veil. Only his book made plain that here was one of the enduring works of prison literature, the century's distinguishing genre: a record of state violence and individual resistance, authentically told, inspiring, unforgettable. Television may be the medium of contemporary politics, but literature conveys the dimension of individual character. The one creates celebrities, the other heroes, like Armando Valladares. Some in the West still regard Castro as the fun dictator, bask in the glow of six-hour talks with him, consider him someone we all need to understand better. Valladares seems to me to understand him perfectly, and closes his book with a lie Castro told in 1983, while Valladares was rotting: "From our point of view, we have no human-rights problem — there have been no 'disappeareds' here, there have been no tortures here, there have been no murders here. In 25 years of revolution, in spite of the difficulties and dangers we have passed through, torture has never been committed, a crime has never been committed."

Tad Szulc, a former foreign correspondent, is the author of "Fidel: A Critical Portrait," to be published this fall.



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Cutting Little Vixen, John Tyrell's  
brilliant essay on the sources of the  
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recordings with the Vienna Philhar-  
monic.



## Why the West will remain wealthy

By Asa Briggs

**POWERS AND LIBERTIES**, by John A. Hall (Pelican, £4.95). **HOW THE WEST GREW RICH**, by Nathan Rosenberg & L. E. Birdzell (I. B. Tauris & Co. Ltd., £16.50).

THERE have always been historians more interested in the broad sweep of history than in its specific detail. Of these two current examples of their work, each concerned with "the rise of the West," John Hall's British product is far more interesting and provocative than the somewhat disappointing American study by Nathan Rosenberg and L. E. Birdzell.

The latter offer a neatly organised, but unoriginal version of economic and technological history, based on familiar and not always the most up-to-date books by other people. At best it is a useful treatise, more useful for its later chapters than for its earlier ones. By contrast, John Hall claims to be writing "philosophical history," the kind of history which was produced not in the nineteenth century but in the eighteenth, and he calls his book an essay. It raises issues rather than balances them, and there is an agreeable touch of daring in it.

Treatise and essay converge, however, at many points, and at more than one point similar language is used. There are 18 references to Adam Smith in the Rosenberg and Birdzell index, 26 in Hall's. Their platitude points to the fact that both books are concerned essentially with "the wealth of nations," with how in the words of the Rosenberg and Birdzell blurb "the timeless cycle of hunger and hardship" was broken.

There is little hint in either of them that many previous historians with equally broad sweep were more fascinated by the "decline of the West" than by its "rise." Spengler and Toynbee have already passed into forgotten history. "There is no reason to believe that Western growth in scientific knowledge nor the economic growth derived from it is anywhere near the point of exhaustion," Rosenberg and Birdzell conclude. "We see nothing in the underlying sources of Western economic growth to foreclose the prospect of continued growth." "If we remain flexible, avoid 'errors in policy,' to use Adam Smith's expression," John Hall says on his last page, "there is no reason why we should face economic decline."

There is one reference to unemployment in Rosenberg and Birdzell — and it is to "the unemployed in pre-industrial Europe": there are none in Hall's index. Both books are uninterested in views from below. Hall refers in his early pages to the commanding heights of our conceptual apparatus.

Both books insist at many points on the inability of economic historians to explain economic growth entirely in terms of economics. "One of the principal contentions of this book," Hall writes, "is that factors other than economic ones played a role in the rise of the West." "The West's path to wealth," write Rosenberg and Birdzell, "involved and required a

society willing to tolerate and accept social and political change far more drastic than any previous revolution."

Hall is more specific about the other "factors" and more willing to argue with Marx. Rosenberg and Birdzell, however, are more careful to introduce "cautions." In their last pages they point to the difficulties of comparing contemporary modes and systems of economic organisation in terms either of results or goods, and while they do not point to any of the set of rather different difficulties identifying just what is meant by "the West," they quote Evsey Domar's apparently modest suggestion that it is more relevant to compare East Germany with West Germany, Czechoslovakia with Austria and Yugoslavia with Greece than "East" with "West."

The dangers of exchanging historical detail for historical sweep are apparent in both books. Sweep exhilarates; detail reveals. Moreover, since historians rely on other books as well as on direct research, if the other books are themselves general, both economic and philosophical historians can get further and further away from actual human experience.

They can also get further and further away from their own thinking. The brief sections on the steam engine, for example, in the Rosenberg and Birdzell volume are particularly disappointing, given Professor Rosenberg's highly illuminating earlier writings.

Indeed, the sweep itself lacks exhilaration. There is no discussion, for example, or crucial differences between "the gospel of steam," which inspired many disciples of economic growth while alarming many people displaced by it, and the science of nuclear power, which has profoundly depended on "experts" and which has disturbed late-twentieth century thinking and feeling. Moreover, the pros and cons of the limits to growth controversy are as forgotten as Spengler and Toynbee.

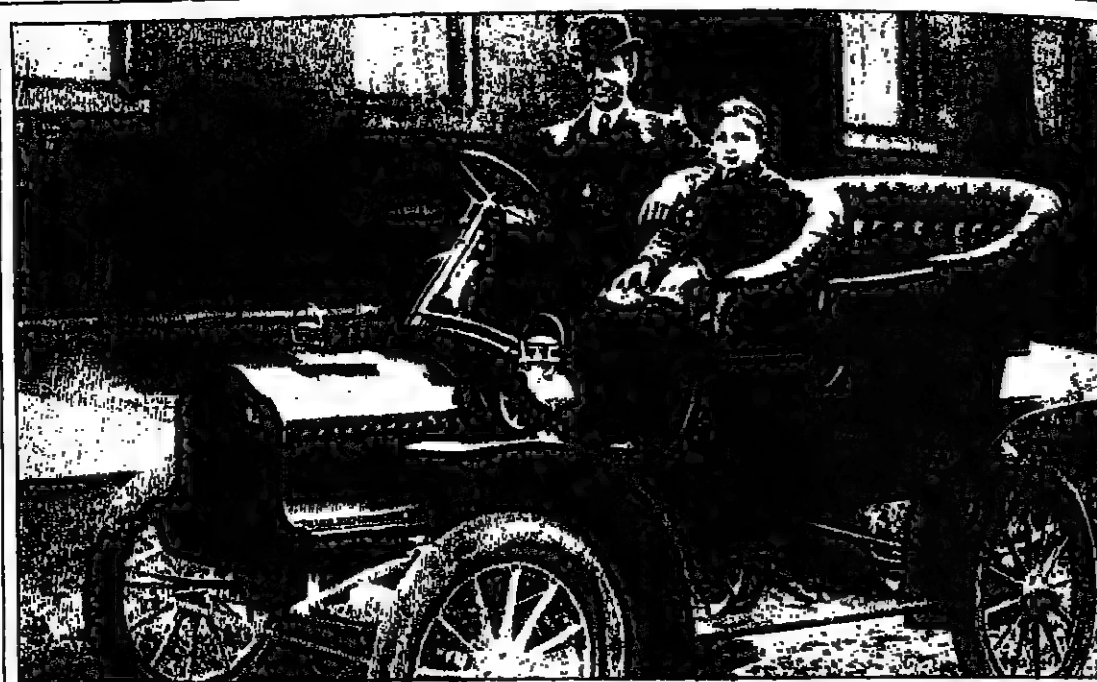
There is a curious final twist to Dr Hall's very genuine sense of exhilaration. "The rise of the West," he concludes, "pioneered human progress in the strongest sense, by combining commerce and liberty in a wholly miraculous manner." The phrase "wholly miraculous" seems odd from the pen of an enlightenment historian, anxious at the same time to explore "classic questions of historical sociology."

It is a curious final twist to the world; its ever widening waters flow over a hundred buried villages and a hundred thousand victims and what were once the harbours of a Cinque port or two; it has its own petrified forest, its own marsh with its own malarial mosquito.

Its story unfolds like some majestic biblical tale, beginning with a Niagara of a flood which scoured away the soil round the bones of dinosaurs, and it closes with a presumptuous plan to sap through its foundations to link two nations.

In between, the tapestry of its tale shows little scenes, vignettes or even charades which seem to crystallise the whole history of the West.

Nigel Calder has his own clear reasons for calling it the English Channel, and he makes his case deftly and without chauvinism. With 14 admirable books behind



Henry Ford and son Edsel in a Model F in 1904

## The feudal Ford fiefdom

By Clancy Sigal

**FORD**, by Robert Lacey (Heinemann, £15).

HENRY FORD creator of the largest family-controlled business and the fourth largest industrial corporation in the world, was the least heroic of hero inventors. In fact, he was less an original inventor than a sly, greedy organising genius of finance and production who had one really good idea — a light-weight, fast, reliable car at low price for the masses.

Almost all his early competitors aimed for a high profit, middle class market. But as Robert Lacey points out in his curiously distanced blockbuster, Old Henry was a genuine farm boy mentally ruled by the "demonology of rural Michigan" — he hated eastern bankers, moneylenders and Jews. His prejudiced populism almost demanded that he design a people's car that his rivals ("those Grosse Pointe sonofabitches") weren't interested in. So he put together a "twentieth century equivalent of the covered wagon" and called it a Model T. It was a sensation. By the end of the first world war almost half the cars on earth were Model Ts.

The later Ford dynasty, made of weaker stuff in a more complex capitalism, always had trouble fulfilling the old patriarch's fanatic wish that the company never fall into the hands of outsiders. The son, Edsel, was driven to an early grave — says Lacey — by a father who installed him as president but refused to let him rule. The present success of the company is

due, Lacey implies, to a kind of revenge by Edsel's playboy son Henry II in tribute to his father so cruelly used by old Henry.

This shaky psychoanalysis is less persuasive than other facets of Lacey's formidable research. The saga of Henry Bennett almost demands its own book. As old Henry was fading into nostalgic senility, but faint hearted Edsel was still alive, Ford somehow found Bennett — a shrewd, violent street thug — in the mob and crowned him protégé and his son in all but name. Once in full charge Bennett tightened his benevolent anti-union reign of terror. His "empire of darkness" involved bringing in both underworld characters like himself and the FBI to run the Ford factories like prisons. It was a near run thing, according to Lacey, whether or not on old Henry's death the crime syndicate might not take over the company altogether.

The blurred hero of the second, duller half of Lacey's almost 800 page book is Henry II. Though a drunk with a rich boy's insensitivity to workers, somehow he cleaned out the corruption, substituting for his grandfather's grim stopwatch-and-fist regime a smoother, less confrontational system called "human engineering" — a PR man's dream of profits without strikes. The whole Ford story is told by Lacey with a nod, but only just, to the assembly line workers who really built Ford. Any author who sees the old time speed-up as a "mechanical ballet" lacks, like his

ambiguous idol Henry II, a certain affinity with shopfloor people.

This limits Lacey's views almost entirely to the top corporate infighting that took place once Ford went public (but with the family shrewdly controlling 40 per cent of the voting stock).

To be fair, Lacey's research net is cast so wide that he catches some interesting fish in it. He almost says that the powerful phalanx of Ford women — starting with old Henry's widow Clara — made the really crucial decisions when the men couldn't. And Lacey is particularly vivid on old Henry's bizarre view of his factory as a mixture of church and YMCA — to work for Ford, the owner felt, was a religious experience and anyone who didn't feel that way was treated (and often beaten) like a heretic.

Lacey's problem is that he is so caught up in boardroom intrigues, especially between Henry II and the ego-maniac Lee Iacocca, that the ego-maniac Lee Iacocca, that the broader picture gently fades out of focus. Lacey is also hamstrung by his contradictory desire to flatter the Ford ("shining examples of the best that inherited wealth can produce") and be faithful to their less attractive family traits. I was left not so much with a deeper understanding of the auto business as a stunning final image. Henry II at 70 bent feverishly over his paper shredder feeding into it all the personal and company secrets anyone — but a Ford shouldn't see. When all is said and done, the Fords still run their industrial fiefdoms personally and feudally.

## Cross Channel cross currents

By Tim Redford

**THE ENGLISH CHANNEL**, by Nigel Calder (Chatto, £12.95).

**THE CHANNEL: DIVIDING LINK BETWEEN BRITAIN AND FRANCE**, by Shirley Harrison (Collins, £9.95).

him, on physics, the weather, weaponry, astronomy and geology, he has already established himself as a great English Channel of communication: this might be his finest book.

It flows like the tide, inexorably, but with swirls and counter currents and eddies which carry anecdotes of Voltaire and Smollett, Drake and the Armada, Admiral Byng and William the Bastard, of Erasmus Childers the writer and gun-runner, of wreckers and lifeboatsmen, smugglers and surveyors.

He tells it from the cabin and

the cockpit of his ketch, as he sails "cruising at an altitude of sixty metres over the continental shelf of Europe" from Ushant, to Brest, to Roscoff and Rance, the Channel Islands, and Cap Gris Nez before turning and sailing back down the English coast from South Goodwin to Scilly, gathering strands of stories and spinning them first into yarns and then into ropes, and then into a cable that holds the whole world of the Channel together.

Meet here the Spanish ladies that you farewell in song, the earthquakes recorded in Rome and Juliet, the oil from the Amoco Cadiz disaster that lies like a geological stratum beneath the sands of Brittany, and the private agony of sea sickness, the disease whose patron saint is Saint Elmo, "martyred 16 centuries ago by having his intestines taken out on a windlass."

This last topic provides a prime example of the Calder technique we learn not only the clinical basis for seasickness and how to combat it; we also learn that in medieval law contracts made at sea had no validity because the retching victim "might agree to anything that would shorten the voyage." With every instruction comes a bonus.

It is bad luck on Shirley Harrison that her study appears almost simultaneously. She tells the story not from the point of view of a sailor but of a shore-based camper; the perspective is different, but also handles the history sequentially and is much more detailed, beginning about 195 million years ago and ending with a postscript on the fixed link to come. The book is a handsome, richly illustrated text is nourishing fare, her historic recipe for seasickness, by the way, is a lump of sugar soaked in crossosol.

## Bridge

By Rixl Markus\*

THE American Contract Bridge League is fortunate in that all its "nationals," its regular competitions, are attended by thousands of bridge players who are quite happy to compete for master points. Competitors in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, normally between 500 and 1,000 for each event, expect money or other prizes of substantial value; in return, they pay comparatively large entry fees. These events are usually held in attractive holiday resorts, so that the players can enjoy a short holiday as well as the competition.

I have often wondered why these events attract so many players destined never to reach the top flight. The answer must be that they enjoy meeting the very best players and derive much satisfaction when they achieve their occasional good scores against the experts. There are certain events, of course, notably individuals and short pairs competitions, in which luck plays a major part and outsiders can occasionally finish at the top of the list.

These thoughts were provoked by my experiences at the recent Juan les Pins Festival. I played with Wolfgang Mehl in the three-session mixed pairs, and we suffered two bad results at the hands of two mediocre performers who had nothing to lose and who bid an unstable slam, by accident, and an unstable game on insufficient values. On the third board of the set, I felt that I had to make an unusual bid in an attempt to secure a "top" and salvage something from the wreck. This was the lay-out, dealt by East with North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 8 6 4 3  
♥ K 9 3  
♦ 5 4 2  
♣ 7 6

**EAST**  
♠ A 9 7 2  
♥ A 10 6 4  
♦ K 10 8  
♣ Q 9

**WEST**  
♠ 8 5 2  
♥ A Q J 8 3  
♦ A 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K J 10  
♥ Q 7  
♦ 7 6  
♣ K J 10 8 5 3

(1) I would normally have rather better trumps for a low-level penalty double, but the vulnerability was in our favour and I decided to try for the +500 which would beat those East-West pairs who bid and made game on our cards.

I led the five of spades, and my partner won with the ace and returned the two of spades for me to ruff. I



switched to the ace and eight of diamonds, and East won with the king and gave me a second spade ruff. I then exited with the jack of hearts, and declarer won with the queen and had to decide how to handle the trump suit. The missing trumps were A-Q-9, and South elected to play me for an original holding of A-9-4-2. He therefore led the king of clubs in an attempt to pin the singleton queen in the East hand, and the penalty was +800.

"Well doubled," said my partner, and I explained quietly that I had to do something after what had happened on the two previous boards.

Shortly afterwards, we were given another chance to retrieve some of the lost points.

Dealer South: East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 8 7 5  
♥ Q 9 7 5 3  
♦ J 8 4

**EAST**  
♠ 4 3  
♥ A J 4  
♦ J 10 8 6  
♣ 10 7 5 3

**WEST**  
♠ A K Q 10 9 2  
♥ K 10 5 3  
♦ 2  
♣ Q 9

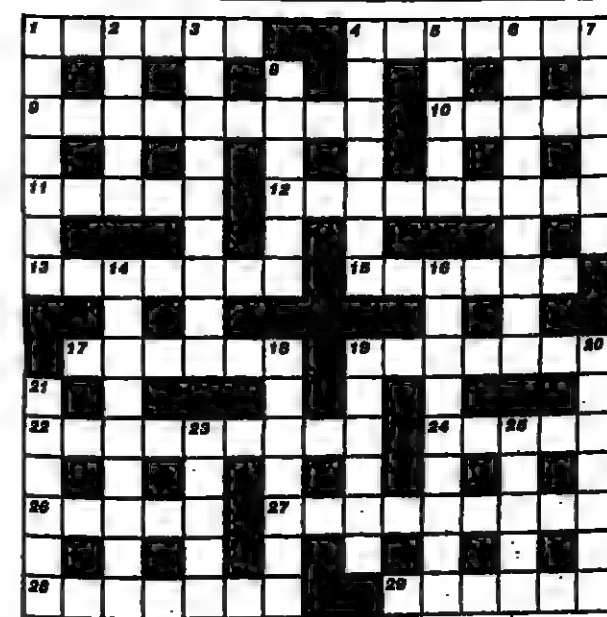
**SOUTH**  
♠ J 7 6 5  
♥ Q 2  
♦ A K 6 2  
♣ A K 5 2

1NT(1) Double NB(2) NB

(1) North-South were playing a strong no-trump, but I would never dream of opening 1NT with two suits completely unguarded.

(2) North took rather a gamble by leaving in 1NT doubled; 2D would have been easy on the North-South cards, and there is no game contract available for East-West.

I led the ace of spades and switched to a heart at trick two. My partner won with the ace of hearts and returned a spade, and we took the first ten tricks in the major suits when declarer carelessly discarded a heart from dummy on the last spade. +700 was a "top" on the board.



By ARAUCARIA

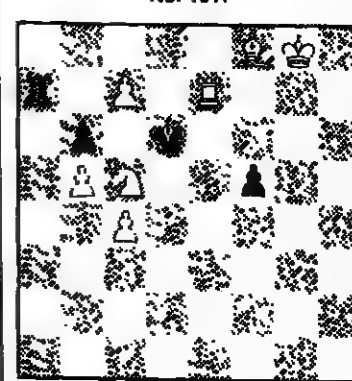
**ACROSS**  
1. Frank hero could be 7 (6).  
4. It keeps one warm and quiet (7).  
9. Robin's mate, post mortem? (9).  
10. Church 11 sounds bigger than 20 (5).  
11. Tell which goes where? (5).  
12. Vette face in face of daily (9).  
13. Slacker in even, NW8 (7).  
15. Home Guard put on some bacon for... (6).  
17. ... poet left with either or both? (8).

18. Poem translating lays about policemen (7).  
22. Temporary cure due to good behaviour? (9).  
24. Card game with ducks is no good (5).  
26. Small egg belonging to Christmas, one might hear (5).  
27. McGregor's work in "Ginger and Pickle"? (9).  
28. Made a fool like a dumpling? (7).  
29. Material for 1, 15, etc. (6).

## Chess

By Leonard Barden

No. 1917



White mates in two moves, against any defence (by J. Schell).

Solution No. 1916

White K at K2, Q at K7, R at Q81 and KR5, B at Q7, N at QN5 and Q3, P at Q4, QN2, Q88, K6 and KN4. Mate in two.

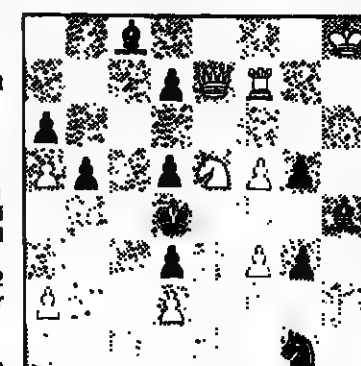
1 Q-B8 KxP 2 Q-Q8, or if KxP 2 N-B7, or if K-B5 2 Q-Q85, or if K-K5 or B moves 2 Q-KB5.

BRITAIN won gold medals last month in the world solving championship at Fontenay, near Paris. The team (sponsored by Lloyds Bank) of Mestel, Lee and Friedgood were all former winners of the bank's open solving contest which annually attracts 2,000 entries. Final totals were Britain 165/170, Finland 164, Israel 149, Sweden and Yugoslavia 145, West Germany 141, France 139, Netherlands 131. Throughout, the battle was between the British masters at over-the-board chess and the Finnish solving specialists Perkonja and Vallonen.

The championship includes two-movers, three-movers, helmates, self-mates and endgame studies. Over-the-board players do well at studies but find the more artificial problems hard, and the world title was decided in the last few minutes of the final batch of self-mates. Mestel, with maximum points, abandoned his time race with Perkonja for the individual gold to ensure no errors in the team competition. Lee could not crack the trickiest self-mate but correctly guessed the key and scored a point. Vallonen remembered the problem from its original publication some 20 years earlier yet made an error in his written solution.

Individual totals of Perkonja 85/85 (gold medal on faster time), Mestel 85,

Lee 80 and Vallonen 79 gave the British pair grandmaster norms for problem solving. A GM solving title may sound trivial beside its over-the-board equivalent, but FIDE's standards are stiff. Three norms are needed, and they can only be scored by achieving 80 per cent or better of the winner's total at the world championship. Thus at present there are only four solving GMs in the world — the two Finns, an Israeli and a Yugoslav, Graham Lee, a 33-year-old British Telecom computer lecturer, world title bronze medalist in both 1985 and 1986, has two norms.



Mestel and Friedgood each took 4 minutes to solve this three-mover at Fontenay: Lee took 9 minutes. Try comparing your own time against our world champions. White mates in three moves, against any defence (by J. van Dijk, 1928). Solution next week.

Mestel flew back to London to play top board for Cambridge University against IM Watson of Oxford in the Legal & General national club final. Oxford led 3-2 and Mestel, over-pressing in a double bishop end game blundered a pawn. Paradoxically it proved the winning idea when Black (to move) reached this diagram with a minute or so left in the blitz play-off.

## A COUNTRY DIARY

NORFOLK. Towers of mills and churches afford commanding views of the flat marshes stretching between Norwich and the eastern seaboard. Birds have to achieve only slightly higher viewpoints to embrace far distant features of the coastline. In clear weather I have watched ospreys, making use of thermals, rise from my fen pools and circle slowly to an immense height before drifting gently south-eastwards on their autumnal migration. Similarly, in the depth of summer, I have seen a small party of spoonbills soar above a flock of gulls until lost to sight in the blue zenith, perhaps returning to Holland after paying Norfolk a short visit. Some of our young herons betray restlessness and climb the skies in search of adventures abroad at this season. Countless waders throng the Arctic tundra's bogs and pools at high summer, rearing their broods and thereafter preparing for departure as days shorten: some, indeed, though partly non-breeders, form a vanguard reaching Norfolk's mudflats and marsh pools before the end of July. Their trills and piping, night and day, contribute music as delightful if not quite so dramatic as that of the trumpeting of whooper swans that presages the onset of winter.

E. A. Ellis  
THIS is the last Country Diary by E. A. "Ted" Ellis, the Norfolk-based naturalist, author and broadcaster, who wrote the feature regularly for two decades. He died last week aged 77. He was a world authority on microfungi, and for some years presented the radio programme, Nature Postbag, W.D. Campbell writes:  
"The death of Ted Ellis marks the end of a very happy and, for me, highly educative relationship. For the past 22 years, with one exception, we had an annual get together — around Whitton in the

Breckland of his beloved Norfolk, at the home of my late brother who had scouted out interesting sites to visit. After an inspection of the garden and a sampling of my brother's birch wine, we would visit one of the selected sites, either of Breck or the forest areas with their hidden fens and pools. Then, after slaking our thirst at the local hostelry, we would return to a convivial lunch where there was always much laughter as well as serious discussion of the morning's events. The afternoon expedition to another site followed and by the end of the day I felt I had been privileged yet again to enjoy the company of a unique personality. Ted was an amateur in the true sense of the word: a lover of the wide range of subjects which he studied. I remember his obvious delight on being taken to a secret fen where the pools were shimmering sheets of water-violets in bloom, and soggy ground beneath the willows and alders was studied with the bright green tufts of marsh fern. But perhaps his greatest pleasure was in the use of his ancient microscope; he was an acknowledged expert on microfungi such as smuts and rusts, and would invariably discover something worthwhile on our jaunts which the rest of us would have passed unnoticed. Another outstanding feature of Ted's knowledge of his county was his ability. When we came across such a comparative rarity as a Beehawk moth or the large Broomrape which grows upon its namesake, to quote the year of the last known record. But my outstanding memory of the typical Ted is when, on meeting him by chance in London one morning, he greeted me with: 'Hello Bill, I've just had a new experience. I have often been bitten by a six-spot ladybird, but this morning, for the first time ever, I had a nip from a two-spot.'

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## Britain out of step again

On the eve of the Commonwealth mini-summit, the Prime Minister faces similar opposition to her policy towards southern Africa as did her predecessor, Edward Heath, in the early 1970s. Then, as now, British attitudes were out of sympathy with black Africa and with the rest of the Commonwealth.

In 1970, the influential Conservative Commonwealth and Overseas Council had prepared a memorandum relating to "overseas issues facing the next Conservative government and defence outside Nato." Among other things it recommended a return of British troops East of Suez to the Gulf area and the selling of arms to South Africa within a South Atlantic Treaty Organisation; and a pact between the UK, South Africa, Portugal (Angola and Mozambique), Argentina and Brazil to defend the South Atlantic, southern Africa and the Cape route.

As an adviser to several African and Arab governments, I was given copies which I passed on to the African governments concerned. Meanwhile, the FCO was strongly advising Mr Heath against these policies and producing political assessment papers proving that Britain's economic, trade, and financial future in Africa lay with black Africa and not with the white South African regime.

Mr Heath apparently reacted strongly, stating: "I will not take instructions from an engine driver."

(the then permanent under-secretary at the FCO was Sir Denis Greenhill and the reference related to the mandarin's former spell as a management trainee with the old LNER).

Lobby correspondents whom Mr Heath had invited to the Commonwealth conference in Singapore, were briefed by No. 10's press office that Mr Heath would score a great victory. But at the FCO the knives were out and the diplomatic and Commonwealth correspondents were told of great trouble to come.

Not only was Mr Heath opposed at the Singapore conference, but at a private party there was a slanging match between him and the presidents of Uganda (Obote), Tanzania (Nyerere) and Zambia (Kaunda) which ended with Mr Heath shouting: "I wonder how many of you gentlemen will be able to return to your countries."

Obote could not get a plane for five days by which time he had been ousted by General Amin. However, Mr Heath's policies were defeated and, nearly two decades on, Britain is again the odd man out.

While no one except a financial and economic tyro could possibly believe sanctions will ever bring down the South African regime, it is vital for Britain that the Prime Minister is seen to be in sympathy with the rest of the Commonwealth for far stronger measures against that country.

Mrs Thatcher should defer to

this unanimous body of opinion. In doing so, she might also remember the old Chinese proverb: "The taller the willow the further it can afford to bend."

Granville Jones,  
Mountpelier Row,  
Twickenham, Middlesex.

Hugo Young's sentence "a Prime Minister who genuinely understands that some international action is now essential in the British interest, and one who possesses enough far-sighted cunning to make this as unextravagant as possible" says everything about perfidious Albion.

Mr Young wants deviousness above frankness and seems to share most of Mrs Thatcher's conclusions but resents her open style. Mrs Thatcher's interview is described as "emotional" but she said nothing new or fresh and the emotional person seemed to be Hugo Young.

Give me Thatcher's blunt directness, even when one disagrees with her, rather than the slippery Richelieuque approach Hugo Young wants to use to serve "British interest."

In the same style of "British interest" Laurence Cockcroft overlooks two important facts — one is that there are millions of South Africans, not expatriates, who are black and other colours who want to avoid "a repetition of the political mess which has occurred in the rest of Africa" (Cockcroft's words, not mine). The second is that South Africa is no colony, even if Mr Cockcroft has imperial hangovers, and international pressures can be a good or a pep pill, depending on your view, but South Africans, 70 per cent of whom are black but no more politically homogeneous than the rest of us, will have to sort it out.

In fact Mr Cockcroft is not far off the dangerous argument that all African governments are bad governments, white dominated African governments are bad governments, black ones so why help to put into power the greater of two evils?

Prospective parliamentary candidates on the bench in England can indulge that debate to promote their domestic political purposes but those of us in South African constituency politics recognise the state of the tide but we have to beach as best we can through the surf, not build sandcastles in Halifax.

Allan Sourkes, PhD,  
Walter Huda, PhD,  
Dept of Radiology,  
Univ. of Manitoba.

## Western message from Moscow

The document you published (August 3) purports to be the views of senior Soviet officials, members of a newly formed "Movement for Socialist Renewal." I have felt that there exists a suspicious congruity between the points made in the document and the arguments that have often been pushed by the more hawkish US and Western politicians.

The congruity is nowhere more clear than in the statement on Soviet foreign and disarmament policy. This, I quote, "is based on mistaken assumptions about the causes of tension in the world (the arms race), and pursues false goals (universal and complete disarmament). The arms race is a consequence, not a cause, of international tension, and to achieve the goals of universal and complete disarmament it is necessary to seek ways to liquidate the centres of international tension, the 'hot spots' of our planet."

Such a view obviously conforms to the line of those in US policy-making circles who are openly reluctant to enter into negotiations that will lead towards substantial arms control and comprehensive disarmament agreements but are happier instead to divert and restrict these negotiations towards local disputes, such as Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Libya, etc. It falls short only of blaming the USSR for the creation, in the first place, of these "hot spots."

Moreover, the doomsday forecasts of the Soviet economy and prophecies of its imminent collapse are usually used by the same US circles to justify the policies of accelerated arms build-up adopted by the Reagan administration.

The document itself offers little in the way of a serious Socialist alternative to the Soviet system other than calling for the transplantation of a selection of what are considered superior Western economic and political methods into the Soviet Union. Its message comes close to openly and directly challenging socialism as a viable economic and political order.

As such this document appears a carbon copy of the official but less

sophisticated assessments and theories of the Soviet system that have appeared in the West during the past 70 years.

I. Cohen,  
Leigh Gardens,  
London NW10.

I have been reading and translating Soviet publications on science, politics and social science for 30 years and after reading Martin Walker's articles I was saying that there seems to be something highly dubious about certain parts of the main document and indeed about the way in which it has been conceived and the style of its presentation.

Much of the information contained in the "manifesto" of the MSR has already been published in the Soviet press particularly in the academic journals, and it is possible that sources outside the USSR could have compiled the "manifesto", adding pieces here and there to provide it with its apparent integrity.

It is true that Soviet writers have been increasingly critical of the system inside the Soviet Union and I have been reporting many of these criticisms in the British press for some time. However, I find it hard to believe that any "loyal" Soviet citizen at whatever level in the hierarchy could write such statements as "our leaders give no thought to tomorrow, to the future of the country and its people."

To me there is something wrong about the style of the "manifesto": it is too clever for most Soviet propagandists and ideologues I have ever read; it is too direct.

Martin Walker claims to be able to vouch for the eminence of some of the authors of the Russian document. I would like to examine the original Russian version before finally making up my mind, but your revelations will certainly provoke some speculation as to the identities of these authors.

Kenneth Shaw,  
Cappthorne,  
Brixham, South Devon.

## Devolution in Sri Lanka

The much-hurled Sri Lankan devolution proposals have been unveiled with the approval of India, and some discussion has begun. However, we who have a good knowledge of the deep division between the main races in Sri Lanka cannot accept it as a solution.

To relegate the Tamils to the level of 1/8 or even 2/9 — taking the argument of the nine provinces created by the British for their administrative convenience — will only convince them of the lack of recognition of the Tamil nation itself.

We believe that the "Government"

would do well to look at our plan:

"The North should be completely Tamil-orientated, while the East should have a tripartite regional body with the Muslims playing a leading part. Similarly, the Central Province should have a powerful sharing council reflecting the area's population structure. The remaining six provinces should be merged into two larger regions mirroring the bias towards the Low Country Sinhalese and the Up Country Sinhalese."

P. Mylvaganam,  
Oxford International Resources  
and Advice Centre.

## Clean French hands?

Bertrand Le Gendre seems to me to open up an important new aspect of the Rainbow Warrior affair (July 20). He says (I quote) "the Portuguese photographer who was trapped and drowned when he went to recover his camera in the bomb-shattered wreck of the Rainbow Warrior."

Thus it seems, contrary to popular belief, that the photographer was not killed by the explosion; but his death was due to the negligence of the harbour authorities allowing him to enter a dangerous wreckage, which was in their charge.

Brian Thomas,  
34230 Baulhan, France.

## Comic cuts of the V-bomber

Your story entitled "Toy manufacturers do well by Stealth" (August 3), reminds me of when I worked for Normalair, a subsidiary of Westland Aircraft. I was asked to design air-control equipment for the vented suits of the Vulcan V-bomber crews.

I was not allowed to contact the firm, Avro, which made the bomber; a special department liaised with it. I asked this department to get me some information on the plane's seating arrangements.

This was important because the equipment had to have five outlets for the air to the suits, and I had to know which direction, the outlets

had to point.

But the liaison chap said: "It's so secret that I can't give you an answer to your questions." I mentioned this to a colleague, he looked amused and asked me to wait until he came back from lunch. He returned with a copy of his son's comic — Magnet, I think — which had a beautiful drawing of the Vulcan, showing among many other "secret" items exactly where the crew sat.

Avro was happy with my design.

Rowley Barnard,  
Poole, Dorset.

## Labour in new Militant row

THERE does not have to be a general election until 1988 and there is no reason why Mrs Thatcher, with her huge Commons majority, should declare one any earlier. But the idea has got around that the Prime Minister will try her luck next year, possibly in May or October, so all political actions and utterances from now have to be judged with that possibility in mind.

Does Mrs Thatcher want to be held responsible, in the run-up to an election, for damaging Commonwealth relations over the question of sanctions against South Africa, for instance? Presumably not, hence her reluctant agreement this week to go along with some very limited economic measures to demonstrate disapproval of the upholders of apartheid.

It is also taken as read that the Government's willingness to spend a little more on local government, and on education, are an effort to persuade Tory councillors and voters that the years of austerity were for their own good, but that the future, with its promise of lower taxation all round, will be brighter and better.

It was with the election in mind that the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John MacGregor, goaded the Labour Party into an unseemly row over the cost of its spending plans. To finance its electoral promises, said Mr MacGregor, Labour would have to increase the basic-rate tax from its present 25p to 53p in the pound, or raise value-added tax from 15 to 48 per cent. "Fantasy figures" replied the shadow Chancellor, Mr Roy Hattersley.

The former Labour Home Secretary, Mr Merlyn Rees, suggested that there should be an independent audit of Labour's programme to stop the "current deceit coming from Tory ministers." Mr MacGregor said he was happy to accept the challenge, but Mr Hattersley would have none of it. The exchanges will continue for a long time yet.

Labour did, however, delete from its programme a proposal to reduce, by taxation, the incomes of the "richest" 20 per cent of the population when it became apparent that the 20 per cent would include people — potential Labour supporters — earning £27,000 or possibly less. So the extra £3.6 billion needed to finance improvements in social security will now come from the richest five per cent.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for the Merseyside constituency of Knowsley North, threw a spanner in the party's electoral works when he decided to resign his party seat because, he said, he had lost his taste for politics after a three-year battle with the Militant Tendency, which had been trying to replace him with a one of its own supporters. The party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, dismissed as "rubbish" Mr Kilroy-Silk's claim that he had suffered three miserable years at the hands of Militant.

The embarrassment for Mr Kinnock, who has belatedly declared war on Militant, was the greater because Mr Kilroy-Silk is a personable, ambitious young MP who would almost certainly have qualified for ministerial office in any Labour administration. The episode blew a hole in the attempts

little relief for what lies ahead.

The prosperous South-east of England, which has escaped the worst effects of Thatcherism and the recession, will be hardest hit by the decision of British Aerospace to shed 2,500 jobs. It involves the closure of the 70-year-old aircraft factory at Weybridge, Surrey, which will be the biggest single cutback experience by the South-east in recent years. It would, furthermore, have been greeted with anger from the Tory backbenches had the Commons still been sitting when the announcement was made.

The Confederation of British Industry expressed mounting concern at the declining industrial base when it forecast that manufacturing industry would shed jobs at the rate of 8,000 a month for the next few months. The organisation, in one of its gloomiest surveys in recent years, concluded that the rate of job losses in industry is now accelerating again. Its officials warned that continued closure of plants like that of BAE at Weybridge would make it more difficult for domestic industry to cope with any increased demand in later years, and would result in more imported goods.

The Government decided to move the Royal Engineers into Northern Ireland to do essential maintenance and reconstruction work on security buses in place of civilian building workers who have been intimidated by the IRA. John Laing Construction, one of Britain's biggest civil engineering firms, last week became the third company to announce that it could not continue working for the security forces.

Mr John Kyle, who was shot dead last week, was the fourth person to die at the hands of the IRA since it began threatening workers building a new police station at Londonderry just over a year ago. Since then, the terrorist organisation has stepped up the intimidation by issuing statements naming specific firms and individuals as future targets.

In the Irish Republic, the punt was devalued by eight per cent within the European Monetary System to improve its competitiveness in the export markets, notably Britain. The punt, which was trading at 78p against the pound last week, had been devalued by a year ago, had reached 95p by last week, and the unwanted appreciation was making life difficult for Irish exporters and tourist operators.

## TSB flotation ignores ruling

By Peter Rodgers

THE £1 billion-plus Trustee Savings Bank flotation is to go ahead next month, despite a Lords ruling which says that the bank belonged to the State until an Act of Parliament last year.

The Treasury tried to counter the political onslaught by claiming that it was a Labour Act of Parliament in 1976 which gave up any government ownership rights over the TSB. It also disputed the interpretation put on the Lords' judgment.

After a meeting at the Chancellor's residence, 11 Downing Street, a spokesman said that Lord Templeman, the law lord whose ruling caused the row, did not rule that the assets of the TSB were owned by the Government. "It would have been unthinkable for the Government to have laid claim to those assets," he added. "The TSB Act 1976 says that all 'property of the central bank' shall not be regarded as the property of or property held on behalf of the Crown."

The Treasury said the one thing that does not appear in Lord

Templeman's judgment is the proposition that the Government owns the TSBs.

A spokesman argued that it could not possibly have proceeded as if it did because the 1976 act, which removed many restrictions on the TSBs, included the phrase that its assets did not belong to the Crown.

The Treasury also suggested that there was a distinction between the State ownership discussed by Lord Templeman and the act of nationalisation which would give the Government the proceeds of selling the TSBs.

The TSB and its merchant bankers, Lazard Brothers, said that there would be no change in the sell-off planned for mid-September, but the Opposition Treasury spokesman, Dr Donagh McDonald, said: "The Government has just sold the British taxpayer £1,000 million. The money could have been used to cut the penny from income tax or repair roads, hospitals and houses and create thousands of jobs," she added.

HAWAII 1986 will not be joining the Defence of Kut al Amara, Mesopotamia and Rangoon Road in the honourable annals of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles. But the battle will no doubt be avidly disputed for years in the Kingdom of Nepal by the 111 Gurkha infantrymen who have been discharged from the British army in Hong Kong because their "services were no longer required".

Despite a two-month inquiry by its special investigation branch, the Ministry of Defence claims that the origins of the casualties are still uncertain. The casualties, however, were two injured: an unnamed Gurkha officer with two broken ribs and acting Major Corin Pearce, aged 31, who also sustained two broken ribs and a cut to the head which needed 15 stitches. Happily, the Gurkhas' fearsome kukri blades were not employed.

It happened on Operation Union Pacific, a six-week field training exercise in Hawaii for a company of 136 soldiers from the regiment's first battalion, which normally

## Alert at Cyprus bases as Beirut group admits raid

By Gareth Parry

BRITAIN'S two huge sovereign bases on Cyprus are on full alert as British and Greek Cypriot security forces search the island for the Libyan terrorists who fired rocket-propelled grenades and mortars at the RAF base at Akrotiri.

Sunday night's attack, which injured two women, was claimed in Beirut by a previously unknown faction calling itself the Unified Nasserite Organisation. It said the bombing was in retaliation for the American air strikes on Libya on April 15, and it charged that Akrotiri played a part in the attack.

The assault was the first on a British military installation since the air raids, which were made by F111 bombers operating from US air bases in Britain.

The claim published in Beirut's leading independent daily, *Al-Nahar*, said the attack was "in revenge for the martyrs of our nation in Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria".

As Greek Cypriot security forces hunted the attackers, who are believed to have entered the island by boat from Beirut, 130 miles away, British military police with automatic weapons tightened security around Akrotiri and the other base at Dhekelia.

Guards were also strengthened at the intelligence listening post at Ayios Nicolaos and on the summit of Mount Olympus.

The British military spokesman, Major Gordon Birdwood, said Mrs Sandra Edwards, aged 32, the wives of non-commissioned officers, were slightly injured in the attack, and only "minor damage" was done to married quarters and the sports complex at Akrotiri.

Newspaper reports, however, quoted witnesses on a nearby beach, crowded with civilians at the weekend, as saying the missiles were part of a heavy barrage which was accompanied by small arms fire, and that the missiles exploded among British servicemen and their families swimming on the base's beach.

Cypriot police sources said the attack was apparently carried out by two or more groups from sand dunes about one mile from the base perimeter. The police information, provided before the responsibility claim, tallied with

the Unified Nasserite Organisation claim, which said the attack was executed by three squads of the organisation.

British military authorities on Cyprus have been on a state of increased alert since April 15, when the Americans bombed Tripoli. Access roads to the base area, which cover 256 square miles and accommodate an estimated 10,000 British servicemen, civilian workers and their families, are blocked by barbed wire.

Cypriot police said security forces were hunting for the attackers seen driving off in two rented cars. The search included roadblocks and surveillance of ports and airports.

Security forces said they were investigating "strong indications" that the guerrilla group could have come through the Turkish-occupied north of Cyprus.

They said heavy weapons used in the attack could not have passed through security checks at Cypriot ports and airports.

Cyprus, with its open society and excellent communications, has long been favoured as a base of clandestine operations by feuding political groups.

Leftwing Cypriot and Arab groups claim that British bases were used as a communications link for the Israeli raid on Tunis, and the US attacks on Libya. British and Cypriot authorities have repeatedly denied this.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

	Starting Rates August 4	Previous Closing Rates
Australia	2,434.2-4,574	2,457.0-2,465
Austria	21.43-21.48	21.72-21.75
Belgium	83.20-83.26	84.09-84.28
Canada	2,007.2-2,038	2,049.2-2,059
Denmark	11.48-11.50	11.67-11.70
France	9.92-9.94	10.08-10.07
Germany	3.054-3.068	3.093-3.087
Hong Kong	11.44-11.45	11.620-11.626
Ireland	1,094.7-1,104.7	1,050.4-1,051.4
Italy	2,088.88-2,101.34	2,122.2-2,126
Japan	228.89-228.45	233.09-231.47
Netherlands	3,443-3,447	3,490-3,495
Norway	10.87-10.88	10.87-10.89
Portugal	214.82-216.24	218.68-218.23
Spain	181.45-188.73	200.44-200.73
Sweden	10.24-10.26	10.33-10.34
Switzerland	2.45-2.46	2.47-2.48
USA	1,489.1-1,470	1,485-1,485
ECU	1,465.2-1,469	1,463-1,471.3

FT 30 Share Index: 1261.5 Gold: \$369.82

## Gurkhas get their marching orders

By David Pallister

spends its time guarding the Hong Kong-China border. The mere sight of these men apparently persuaded the Argentinians on Mount Tumbledown to surrender in the Falklands war. Major Pearce, the company commander, had been on secondment with the battalion from the Royal Anglian Regiment for just over a year.

At the end of the exercise "a disturbance" broke out after a party. Major Pearce and the Gurkha officer intervened to restore order and were attacked. Back in Hong Kong 18 Gurkhas were arrested and the SIB began their investigation.

The arrested men and other soldiers refused to cooperate," the Ministry of Defence said on Monday, shattering the 160-year-old myth that Britain's brave little mercenaries were always ferociously loyal to their officers.

All the soldiers were eventually released. "The failure to assist the authorities led to a total breakdown in trust between these Gurkhas and their officers," the MoD said. "There have been no

criminal charges because of lack of evidence."

The discharged men will be flown back to Katmandu for the long trek home to the mountains. Since they have not been dishonourably discharged, some will retain their pension rights or a gratuity, depending on length of service.

It will not be a fortune. A single private in Hong Kong earns £1,700 a year, a married man £4,220, which is one reason why the British Government still recruits tribesmen from the Himalayas for a cost-effective presence east of Suez.

Four battalions are based in Hong Kong, one in Brunei and the last is in the UK as part of the 5th Airborne Brigade. Here their pay increases to £4,000, compared to a British private's basic of £2,574.

In the poor mountains of Nepal that is still good money. "We have 20 applicants for each post," the MoD said cheerfully.

The Ministry of Defence added that some of the dismissed men were appealing.



## High flying prices despite cheaper fuel

AS your summer holiday approaches, it is altogether possible that you will have succumbed to a common form of air travel sickness which strikes the sufferer even before he or she steps foot on a plane. The symptom is a sharp, hollow pain in the bank account brought on by the cost of the tickets.

It might have occurred to you that this summer of all summers the pain could have been a little less. Airlines run on jet fuel, don't they? And since jet fuel is made from crude oil, the price of which has dropped more sharply this year than at any time since the 1930s, someone somewhere must be saving a very great deal of money. And it isn't you.

This line of reasoning is certainly one that the airlines themselves were expecting you to follow — to the extent that one of them has been rehearsing its responses in semi-private. On May 23, British Airways News carried an article by the Chairman, Lord King, claiming that the fall in crude prices had led to "some wild predictions about the effect of this fall on civil aviation and therefore, by extension, on air fares."

"I am afraid," he went on, "that stories about our fuel bill falling by hundreds of millions of pounds a year are unhappily unfounded." The previous edition carried a more detailed but anonymous refutation of the accusation which BA obviously feared was about to be levelled at it.

"If you think the fall in crude oil prices has done for British Airways and its passengers exactly what it has done for motorists across the UK, forget it," the article began. Its author put forward two reasons why you should.

One was that less than half the airlines' requirements were pumped aboard aircraft in Britain, the rest being bought in countries charging up to three times as much. More importantly, the article

claimed that while jet fuel was derived from crude oil "their prices are not directly associated... there is more of a relationship between the cost of jet fuel and heating oil and an increased demand for heating oil affects the supply and price of jet fuel."

The article concluded that in the current financial year, BA was expecting its fuel bill to drop by a mere 6 per cent. "Biggest reason for this cutback is not the fall in fuel price but more efficient aircraft." It is rare that one comes across such an artful concoction of half-truths as this. BA, like other companies, draws up its projections well in advance of the end of the financial year. The one referred to by the article was clearly

company executives who negotiate contracts for the sale of jet fuel with the airlines are under pressure to secure a higher price so that their end of the business can turn a profit. When it goes down, they can afford to give way a bit.

Increased winter demand for other kinds of kerosene did indeed play a part in the rise in the price of jet fuel at the end of last year, but then reduced summer demand helped it to come down in the first six months of this year. As always, though, the principal determinant has been the price of crude. To deny that is like saying that the price of bread is not governed by the price of wheat.

The plunge in the cost of crude from almost \$30 last December to

By John Hooper

worked out at a time when oil prices had only just begun to fall and it would have been unwise to count on savings other than those generated by greater fuel efficiency.

But if it was stretching belief to claim that the company was realistically working on a figure of 6 per cent three months ago, it is downright incredible now. Nevertheless, British Airways was sticking to it last week: "I see no reason why that position should have changed," a spokesman said.

There is, to be sure, a link between movements in the price of jet fuel and those sorts of heating oil which, like aviation fuel, are classed as kerosene. But the relationship only exists on the spot markets in Rotterdam, Singapore and Houston from which the major airlines rarely, if ever, buy their supplies.

The spot price is used internally by the oil companies to fix the price at which their refining arms "sell" refined products like aviation fuel to their marketing divisions. When — for whatever reason — it goes up, the oil

under \$9 today has slashed the price of jet kerosene on the Rotterdam spot market from \$275 then to \$108 now, bringing the negotiators from the oil companies under enormous pressure from their airline counterparts on the other side of the table to pass on the benefits.

But have they done so? Gauging the real cost of fuel to the airlines is not easy. As British Airways rightly pointed out, it varies from the price of oil to the price of a fraction of their fuel from those airports, like Harare, Nairobi and the Maldives Islands, where because of tax or the high cost of transporting it from the nearest refinery, the authorities do indeed charge two or three times the going rate.

The overwhelming bulk of the fuel burnt by the big international airlines is taken on board at the spot markets in Rotterdam, Singapore and Houston from which the major airlines rarely, if ever, buy their supplies.

oil and motorists' petrol which, in Britain, attracts duty of more than £1 a gallon.

British Airways in common with most other airlines refuses to discuss the prices it pays for fuel on the grounds that it is "sensitive, competitive information". The oil companies, on the other hand, are prepared in most cases to provide figures so long as they are not identified by name.

Figures collected on this basis suggest that the price paid by major airlines at Heathrow, which is more or less representative of the other big European airports, has fallen from a peak of 90 to 95 cents per US gallon last December to between 45 and 50 cents for the most recent contracts — a drop of approximately 50 per cent.

This is not, admittedly, as great as the fall in crude prices. The difference reflects the efforts of the oil companies to keep some of the extra profit for themselves.

But 50 per cent is 50 per cent. And fuel accounts for about a fifth of an airline's total costs. So why is this massive drop in their single biggest expense not being reflected in their fares?

In normal circumstances, one could only conclude that they were hoping to make bigger profits at the expense of their customers. But these are not normal circumstances.

The airlines, who were already facing the prospect of a massive bill for extra security measures at the beginning of the financial year, are now having to weather a disastrous fall in transatlantic traffic as a result of Mrs Thatcher's decision to allow the United States to use its British bases for the bombing of Libya. Savings on fuel are helping to mitigate the damage.

But then Lord King can hardly give that as a reason, since it is Mrs Thatcher who will ultimately decide on the privatisation of so ardently desires.

## Electricity profits soar to £944m

By Michael Smith

ELECTRICITY prices, which were cut in June, could be held at the lower levels until next April because of soaring profits in the industry.

Profits of the Electricity Council, which oversees the area boards and the Central Electricity Generating Board, soared to £944 million in the past year. A year earlier, the industry lost £17 billion because of the miners' strike. It is expected that a final decision on prices will not be taken until October, but the Electricity Council says it wants to keep prices as low as possible.

However, the council's hopes were described as "disappointing" by the Electricity Consumers' Council, which said fuel costs had fallen to 1933 levels. In addition, the industry had achieved savings and sales were higher than expected.

"All this should allow the industry to cut prices back to last year's levels or below from this autumn and to hold these prices in 1988," said the EEC's deputy director, Mr Toby Harris. "Instead, Sir Philip Jones talks only of continuing the present 0.2 pence rebate until April."

Sir Philip Jones, the council's chairman, said the past year had been one of considerable achievement and progress for the industry. Domestic sales of electricity rose by 4.6 per cent and industrial usage by 4.5 per cent.

The CEBG, whose turnover accounts for 80 per cent of the council's revenue, earned a trading profit of £645 million. But, after deducting interest charges, the final profit fell to £141 million.

## Howe's long hours of toil that add up to ambition



Sir Geoffrey: biding his time.

WHEN Sir Geoffrey Howe's RAF VC-10 touched down at Heathrow at the conclusion of his trip to round southern Africa, the usual ministerial car was waiting for him behind the VIP terminal. He and Lady Howe climbed in and set off for the Foreign Secretary's official residence in Carlton Gardens.

If ever a man had earned a rest it was Sir Geoffrey. One of his most senior aides watched him go with genuine personal sympathy before getting into a hire car for his own journey to the Foreign Office. He knew his boss faced a personal confrontation with the Prime Minister that evening, to be followed next day by a lengthy meeting of ministers and a full session of the Cabinet.

Thanks to some difficult traffic on the M4, the official did not reach his office for more than an hour. When he got there he was astounded to find his boss already at his desk, shaved, showered, wearing fresh clothes, and working at his papers.

But that was not all. Sir Geoffrey duly met Mrs Thatcher to brief her on his trip, then took home four despatch boxes full of documents and telegrams. Next morning, all had been read and initialled by the Foreign Secretary and returned to the appropriate minister or official.

This awesome capacity for work is, of course, one of the reasons for Sir Geoffrey's success as a politician. Certainly he did not get where he is through the sparkling nature of his public persona. He has had to outdo his rivals in what is, nowadays, an extremely hard working trade. He has achieved it by deliberately cutting his sleeping time to a bare four hours a night during the week. He tops it up at weekend by allowing himself a luxurious lie-in of six or seven hours.

Apart from the Prime Minister herself, I can think of only one serious rival to Sir Geoffrey in this appalling lifestyle — namely, Harold Wilson in his Downing Street years. Lord Wilson, struck down by illness, is now a shadow of his former self. But in his heyday his capacity to recover from total exhaustion was, like Howe's, phenomenal.

One is, of course, entitled to ask whether as preposterous a workload is conducive to logical thought or considered judgment. But there is, in Sir Geoffrey's case, more to it than just physical and mental stamina. Unlike the other two, he has an almost saintlike capacity to turn the other cheek.

That quality was on public display last week in Lusaka, when he was the victim for the second time in a month of a televised stream of abuse from the Zambian president, Kenneth Kaunda. But the same quality has long been an embarrassing feature of the way the Thatcher Cabinet conducts its business in private.

It is not — as some versions have it — that Sir Geoffrey simply bows his head and allows the

By Ian Aiken

Prime Minister's frequent outbursts of exasperated criticism to wash over him. According to witnesses who have sat through the phenomenon frequently, he keeps on arguing in his familiar mumbly way, he never lets up.

Such determination has always taken a fair amount of moral courage, even in the days of Mrs Thatcher's "glad confident morning" as a conviction politician. It takes a great deal more now that glad confident morning pervades the Downing Street bunker.

But it is unlikely that Sir Geoffrey's courage, persistence and equanimity have ever been subjected to so stern a test as the one which now faces him over South African sanctions. He will have to bounce — and keep on bouncing — as never before.

But the question is why he puts up with it? — indeed, why he has put up with it for more than ten years? Why does he not pick up his papers in the middle of one of the

Prime Minister's legendary tirades and walk out, just as Michael Heseltine walked out of the Cabinet room earlier this year?

There can be very little doubt that such a step would inflict serious damage on his tormentor — far more serious than the damage caused by the resignation of Heseltine, or by the subsequent departure of Lord Britton. Indeed, the odds are that the damage would be terminal for Mrs Thatcher, if not for the Government.

Even the Iron Lady must be becoming aware of the existence of this threat to her survival. In such matters she is learning fast, since it is not so long since she faced the possibility — of losing both her law officers over the Westland leak scandal. That, too, could have brought her down.

Such things are undoubtedly a new experience for a woman who has ruthlessly transformed her Cabinet, in the space of under seven years, from a body representative of the whole Conservative Party into a clique largely representative of an untypical Tory faction. What must make the experience all the more unpleasant for her is the realisation that the threat comes from someone she has treated with such consistent contempt.

So let us pose the question once more — why does he put up with it, when even the affable Sir Geoffrey knows he holds her political life in his hands?

Well, there is always the undeniable fact that the Foreign Secretary is an uncommonly nice chap. Even colleagues who regard him as responsible for the destruction of this country's manufacturing industry during his stint as Chancellor are prepared to acknowledge his overriding decency.

He is also strikingly loyal. Almost alone among his Cabinet colleagues, past as well as present, he has consistently refused to utter even the mildest personal criticism of Her Indoors. Whitehall's vast and growing anti-Thatcher folklore owes nothing — or almost nothing to him.

But in politics, where principles are supposed to (and sometimes actually do) outweigh personal considerations, such qualities ought not to be decisive in keeping Sir Geoffrey at his post when he clearly has widening differences with Mrs Thatcher. Is there an

## Class-linked health gap grows

By Andrew Veltch

THE health gap between rich and poor grew sharply in the first four years of Conservative Government, according to official figures published last week.

Death rates among young semi-skilled and unskilled workers aged 25-44 are more than twice as high as those for professional men and managers of the same age.

Women have also suffered. Those married to men in social classes IV and V are up to 70 per cent more likely to die young than wives of men in classes I and II.

The figures for 1979-83 come from the Government's statistics service, the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, in its decennial report on occupational mortality.

They are likely to prove particularly embarrassing for the Government. They show how death and disease have risen — and will continue to rise — along with poverty and unemployment.

For the first time since 1911, the official detailed analysis of deaths in the different social classes has been omitted from the main report. We have calculated the rates from figures published in 22,000 pages of tables published in microfiche form and priced to the public at

£40 (plus VAT). The figures also show that women's risk of cervical cancer may be linked with their husbands' jobs. Those at greatest risk are married to welders, scaffolders, bus, coach and lorry drivers, servicemen, and ships' crews.

Electricians working in power plants run up to twice the risk of contracting leukaemia, the report does not say how many of the men worked in nuclear plants.

Doctors aged 25-34 are more than twice as likely to commit suicide as other men of their age. Those over 65 are more than four times more likely to die of diarrhoea of the liver.

Labour's social services spokesman, Mr Michael Meacher, commented: "Rising class inequalities in illness and death are the stark reality of Thatcherite capitalism. It shows that fighting poverty is now a moral imperative. God knows what the figures will be for 1988."

Occupational Mortality, The Registrar General's Decennial Supplement for Great Britain, 1979-83, 1983-83, Stationery Office, Part I, Commentary, £9.80, Part II, Microfiche tables, £40 plus VAT.

additional ingredient, then?

Some of his closest colleagues believe that there is, and that it is a quality not normally associated with him — namely, personal ambition. Sir Geoffrey, they suspect, has come to believe he has suddenly acquired a real chance of becoming Prime Minister himself.

After all, recent surveys of Tory backbenchers have suggested that he is high on the list of people's first choice for the succession. Moreover, he is higher still on the party's list of second choices in a widely spread field. Even a majority of the rival candidates see him as a preferable alternative to the others.

In other words, he is in with a chance as everyone's compromise candidate. But before Sir

Geoffrey's modest band of admirers get carried away with the prospect, one caveat is essential: serious compromise candidates rarely enter the contest with a dripping dagger in their hands.

To be sure, there are still those who believe that the Conservative Party would actually improve its electoral prospects by getting rid of Mrs Thatcher, even at this late stage of the Parliament. But few would expect her assassin to succeed her.

So there will be no "doing a Heseltine". Sir Geoffrey, I fear, will soldier on as usual, dutifully doing his best to keep the lady within the bounds of common sense. But now he will be waiting. He knows she can't go on for ever.

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## THE WEEK

A COMBINED force of Lebanese soldiers, gendarmes and Syrian military observers, in a key extension of the Syrian-sponsored "security plan", penetrated Beirut's Shi'ite-dominated southern suburbs.

Earlier, the city's fifth bomb explosion in eight days ripped through a cafe in the Christian eastern sector, killing two people and wounding about 30.

At least 55 people died in the four previous blasts, which included car bombs in East and West Beirut.

The deployment was won the assent of the two principal Shi'ite militias, the mainstream Amel and the Iranian-backed Hizbollah. The latter only gave way after negotiations with the Syrians and — probably — under some pressure from an Iranian anxious to reward Syria for its continued support in the Gulf war.

THE Shi'ite Muslim kidnappers of Americans held hostage in Lebanon said at the weekend that they would not negotiate with the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, or President Reagan. The group also threatened to kill its hostages "if our demands are not met". It holds at least three Americans.

The kidnappers also said Father Janco, who was freed on July 28 after 18 months in captivity, was set free on humanitarian grounds and as a goodwill gesture, but also as "a last warning to the American Government".

THE United States announced last week that the Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, will meet his Soviet opposite number, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, in September in a process which could lead to a US-Soviet summit later this year.

Meanwhile, the chief Soviet negotiator on disarmament, Mr. Viktor Karpov, paid a surprise visit to Peking.

Mr. Karpov, who leads the Soviet team in the Geneva negotiations with the US, spent four days in Peking briefing Chinese officials. It was the first high-level Sino-Soviet talks on disarmament in more than two decades.

PRESIDENT Reagan's top advisers last week endorsed a plan to stop Naas launching commercial and foreign satellites on the shuttle. The plan, part of a new initiative to spur development of a private rocket industry, would effectively end the space agency's efforts to promote the shuttle as an economically self-sufficient satellite-launching system.

THE United States won a resounding trade victory at the weekend when negotiators from more than 50 nations agreed to expand an agreement restricting textile imports from developing countries.

The new Multi-Fibre Agreement places even tighter curbs on Third World exports of textiles to industrial countries for the next five years.

BERLIN police said last week that they had arrested Yusuf Hisham Nassar, aged 24, who was sentenced in his absence by an Italian court for complicity in the Achille Lauro hijacking.

THE family of Mr. Anatoly Shcharansky, the Russian Jewish dissident freed from prison earlier this year, are to be allowed to join him in Israel. Mr. Shcharansky, who now lives in Jerusalem, told Israeli

Radio that his mother, Mrs. Ida Milgrom, told him on the telephone from Moscow that she and her second son, Leonid, and his two children, would be able to leave for Israel in about three weeks.

SOVIET officials last week announced the creation of a commission on human rights and humanitarian questions, but said they did not plan to upgrade the current low level of Jewish emigration to Israel and the West.

THE badly mutilated heads of three people were found at a bus stop in Pottuvil, near Salfia in Sri Lanka, after members of a Sinhalese family were kidnapped by Tamil guerrillas, the State Information department reported at the weekend.

MR Bettino Craxi last week told Italy's President Cossiga that he had formed his second Government and presented him with the list of the new cabinet members, thus ending a crisis that began on June 27 with his resignation as Prime Minister.

A SWEEPING victory in Jamaica's municipal elections by Michael Manley's People's National Party increased pressure last week on the Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Seaga, to call early general elections.

WEST German police arrested a suspected leader of the Red Army Faction terrorist group at the weekend, after a remote controlled bomb killed a nuclear expert and a Siemens executive. Mrs. Eva Byllie Hauke-Frim-pert, aged 32, and two companions were caught in the city of Rueselsheim, near Frankfurt.

MALAYSIAN voters returned the multi-racial coalition of the Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, to power in the general election at the weekend. The electoral commission said the 13-party National Front had passed the 58-seat mark, giving it an overall majority in the 177-seat Parliament. The predominantly Chinese opposition Democratic Action Party had 14 seats, the Parti Islam, which wants to ban pork and alcohol, had one, and independent candidates, four.

ROY COHN, the lawyer who gained notoriety as Senator Joseph McCarthy's right-hand man during the anti-Communist witchhunt in the 1950s, died at the weekend from symptoms commonly linked to AIDS.

Mr. Cohn, aged 59, died at the Warren Grant Magnuson clinic in Bethesda, Maryland, of cardio-pulmonary arrest and of two secondary causes — dementia and HTLV-3 infections. HTLV-3 is believed to be the virus that causes AIDS.

NINE suspected cholera cases in Hong Kong led to the British colony being declared a cholera-infected area and there was a rush on vaccination clinics.

THE alger Boy George was fined £250 at Marylebone magistrates' court in London last week for possessing heroin and disclosed later that a \$1 million contract had been cancelled by Japanese promoters because of the offence.

## Lange faces nuclear dilemma

By Ian Templeton in Wellington

AS New Zealand seeks to reshape its defence policy after the withdrawal of the US "security guarantee", it was no comfort to the Prime Minister, David Lange, when the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, in a speech in Vladivostok sought to emphasise the role of the Soviet Union as a Pacific, as well as a European, power.

The Lange thesis has been, as New Zealand pursues its anti-nuclear policy, that the country enjoys a benign strategic environment and can concentrate on strengthening regional security in the south-west Pacific.

The main thrust of Mr. Lange's foreign policy has been to remove the nuclear threat from the South Pacific. He played a leading role in promoting the South Pacific nuclear-free zone treaty on which the sponsoring South Pacific Forum, meeting in Fiji this week, is expected to sign signatures from Britain, the US, and France.

The second and third protocols asks these nations to respect its

prohibitions in their South Pacific territories.

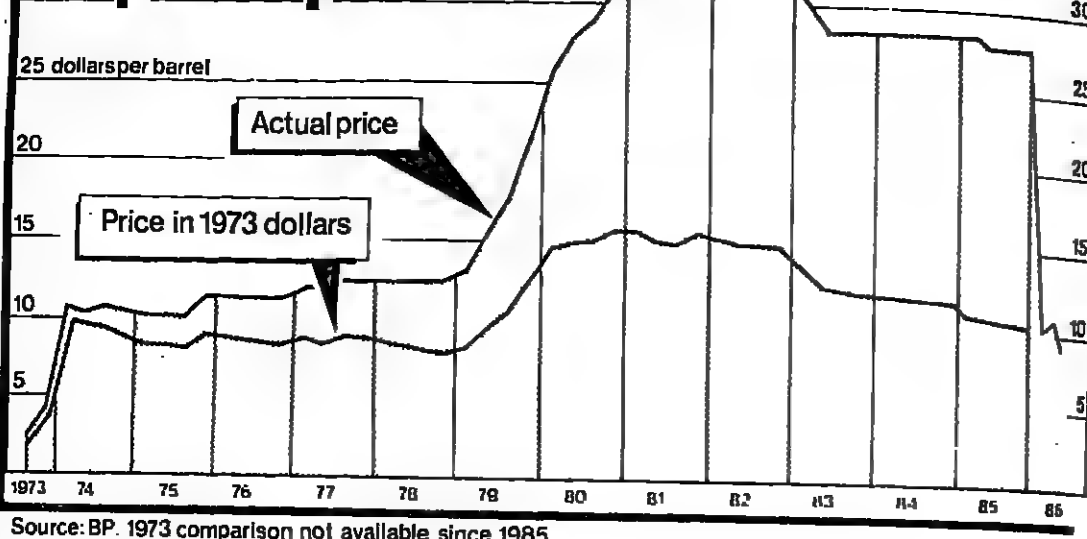
The second and third protocols will also be offered to the Soviet Union and China, both of which have indicated they will sign. These clauses ask that the signatories do not use their nuclear weapons in the zone and do not test nuclear devices.

The US and Britain could vote either way and France is expected to refuse to sign because of its Mururoa test programme.

For Mr. Lange, the anti-nuclear diplomacy has several aspects. In other circumstances he might have welcomed the Gorbachev praise for the proposed South Pacific nuclear-free zone. But the Soviet leader was, in fact, declaring his country's interest in the region; and underlining that the South Pacific is as much a cockpit for superpower rivalry as any other part of the world.

Mr. Lange has just been handed a report from a committee headed by former Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Frank Corner, review-

## Oil price ups & downs



## Opec slashes output

By John Hooper in Geneva

OPEC ministers agreed unanimously in Geneva on Monday a proposal from Iran to exempt its Gulf war enemy, Iraq, from output controls on condition that the other members of the organisation reduce their oil production by a total of 3.5 million barrels a day. The deal, if it sticks, will go a long way towards removing the huge surplus of crude which has dragged prices down to their lowest levels in real terms since the early 1970s.

The Iranian oil minister, Mr. Gholamreza Aghazadeh, told a press conference earlier that he had suggested the scheme should run for at least two months, and the Opec ministers would then reconvene to reallocate binding quotas.

He added that the aim of the scheme was to "give a shock to the market," and even before the conference reached a decision, oil prices had shot up by more than a dollar in Europe and more than \$1.50 in the US.

The agreement will put paid to the promise of even cheaper petrol, but will come as a welcome relief to the British government, which had faced the prospect of a steadily worsening balance of trade and the threat that its revenues from North Sea oil would not be enough to finance income tax cuts in the next budget.

Although the delegates said they fully expected to leave Geneva with a binding agreement, the conference chairman, Mr. Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria, sounded a

note of caution. He confirmed that all the Opec ministers had agreed, but when asked if the deal would be completed replied: "Inshallah" (God willing). Saudi Arabia was said by sources close to the conference to be insisting on the implementation of an official pricing structure.

Iran's daring strategy, tabled at a private meeting of ministers from the 13 Opec states on Sunday night, came only a few hours after the publication of an open letter from the Iraqi President, Mr. Saddam Hussein, calling for an end to the six-year Gulf war.

But Mr. Aghazadeh's initiative did not appear to be a first move towards ending the conflict so much as an attempt to stem the damage inflicted on Iran's economy and its war effort by the plunge

in oil prices. It could yet prove difficult to sell to the Iranian public, but he has nevertheless succeeded in seizing the initiative within Opec and stopping — at least for the moment — the price war encouraged by Saudi Arabia and her allies.

Crude oil prices went into a nosedive in December when Opec effectively abandoned its 16 million barrels a day production ceiling and embarked on a campaign for a bigger share of world markets.

Iran's lack of export channels has meant that it has been unable to pump more than 2.3 million barrels a day allotted under the old ceiling. Iraq, on the other hand, has been able to take advantage of a pipeline which Saudi Arabia last year allowed it to build through its territory to boost its output to 1.9 million barrels a day compared with an official quota of only 1.2.

## 'Token' sanctions by PM

By Michael Smith

THE limited package of measures which Mrs. Thatcher proposed to the summit would make very little impact on either the British or South African economies and seem destined to strengthen the feelings of "token" sanctions against Pretoria.

Britain's three-part package is to halt new investment, ban the import of coal, iron, steel, and Kruggerands, and to impose a voluntary ban on promoting tourism.

They would cover only a fraction of trade between the two countries, but on a broader scale could close off some world markets to South African goods like steel and coal.

Kruggerands, the coin containing an ounce of gold, are an item covered by existing restrictions, and new investment in South Africa has slowed to a trickle in recent years.

Initial observations were that the Prime Minister's measures would affect only around 2 to 3 per cent of the £2 billion a year trade between Britain and South Africa, and that both countries could find alternative trading partners for some produce.

On the basis of estimates so far, it would be difficult for the Government to support claims of large job losses in Britain as a result of sanctions, but there are some signs that blacks could be affected in South Africa's coal and steel industries.

Coal imports from South Africa make only a small impact on Britain's energy needs, and are not used for domestic purposes. According to the Department of Energy, Britain imported 725,000 tonnes of South African coal last

year, worth £40 million and representing less than 1 per cent of Britain's total coal consumption.

But South Africa exports 25 per cent of its 170 million tonnes a year of coal onto world markets, providing jobs for 95,000 non-whites.

Because of the continuing world glut of coal, Britain would have no difficulty replacing South Africa as a supplier, but British mining machinery manufacturers could suffer if South Africa retaliated against sanctions.

The Department of Trade and Industry said that Britain imported a total of £33.6 million worth of iron and steel from South Africa in 1985, which represented a small fraction of domestic needs that could easily be replaced in the current climate of over-supply.

However, iron and steel is a cornerstone of the South African economy, with exports accounting for 44 per cent of production, and the BEC a major purchaser. The industry provides jobs for 70,000 non-whites.

## Opposition throws down challenge to Zia

By George Arney in Islamabad

AFTER months of inertia and international squabbling, Pakistan's opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, has finally found its voice.

At a meeting in Lahore which ended in the early hours of Sunday morning, the MRD challenged the Government to announce elections by September 20 and hold them by the end of the year, or face "a peaceful democratic movement". Miss Benazir Bhutto had already threatened to tighten the screw to force fresh elections by the autumn. The next turn of the screw was due on August 14, Pakistan's independence day, when she planned to make an "important announcement" while party rallies were staged throughout the country.

Now it has been agreed that the People's Party and the rest of the MRD will hold joint rallies in Lahore and Karachi on independence day. Since the ruling Muslim League intends to hold a huge public meeting in Lahore on the same day, a showdown has become a real possibility.

Since the MRD was founded in 1981, it has been demanding immediate elections. This agitation it launched three years ago, which was brutally repressed in Sind province by the army, may have helped to convince General Zia that martial law could not be retained indefinitely.

But since martial law was lifted eight months ago, the internal tensions in the alliance have grown worse. The MRD was always an uneasy coalition of parties ranging from the religious right to the revolutionary left, nearly all of them suspicious of the alliance's biggest partner, the Pakistan People's Party.

Many of them were actively engaged in the mass movement which brought down the former PPP prime minister, Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1977 and opened the door to army rule. Only General Zia's tightening grip brought the parties together.

After Mr. Bhutto's daughter and political heir, Benazir Bhutto, returned to Pakistan in April, divisions deepened. Miss Bhutto has been accused of disregarding the MRD. Although she has met individual party leaders since her return, she has not attended a single meeting of the alliance's central action committee.

In turn, she accused the alliance last week of getting bogged down in non-issues. General Zia's position was getting weaker, she

claimed, "and we do not want him to gain time to entrench himself again".

Smaller parties, fearful of the PPP's predominance, have fought to turn the MRD into an election alliance with a common programme and a permanent organisation.

Most of a meeting billed as "crucial to the future of the alliance" devoted itself to debate over who should represent one of the splintered leftwing parties.

There have also been allied disputes over whether the MRD should continue to call for the restoration of the 1973 constitution, the only one of Pakistan's many constitutions which was freely agreed by elected representatives from all the provinces. After that constitution was overridden by Mr. Bhutto and drastically amended by General Zia, some parties argued that it could no longer sufficiently safeguard provincial rights.

Although not all these disputes have been at least put into cold storage at the latest meeting of the MRD's central action committee. The alliance agreed that if any of its components comes to power the constitution would be amended to strip the Federal Government of control over everything except foreign affairs, defence, communications, and currency.

In future, no state of emergency would be permitted to last longer than six months without a referendum in the province concerned. And provinces would be allowed to raise their own armed civil defence forces.

More significant in the short term is the MRD's decision to impose a deadline for fresh elections. PPP leaders who feared the party had dangerously isolated itself by giving a unilateral call for elections are relieved. "Frankly, this is exactly what we wanted," one of them said after the meeting.

Miss Bhutto's own reaction was not immediately known. She was not at the meeting and her deputies had to seek her approval by telephone. Criticising the alliance last week, she said: "Time does not wait for anyone and so we cannot wait for anyone to keep pace with us." But many feel that time is running out for her, or at least for her credibility.

The postponement of her election deadline from autumn to the end of the year is a small price to pay for winning the active support of the rest of the opposition, however little she has sought it.

## Venice begins to rise again

By George Armstrong in Rome

VENICE is no longer sinking, and has actually risen above the lagoon's mean level by two centimetres, it has been confirmed.

"The image of a sinking Venice has caught the imagination of millions of people who know and love the unique and beautiful city," said the local branch of Italy's National Research Council.

Nonetheless, visitors have seen St Mark's Square standing in between 10 inches to four feet of water this year. The record remains that of 1966, when the square was standing in six feet of water.

A city ordinance 15 years ago

stopped industries in the Porto Marghera area on the mainland from drawing more water from artesian wells. This caused the subterranean water table in the lagoon area slowly to rise to its previous level, ending the subsidence and probably explaining why the city rose above the level at the beginning of this century.

In taking measurements of Venice the Research Council chose the town of Conegliano, in the hinterland, as its reference point. However, Conegliano was badly shaken in the 1976 earthquake in the nearby Friuli region, and the experts had to start again with three other towns.

There are references to the tidal water that regularly covers the

## Private enterprise in Moscow

JUST beside the Moscow planetarium is a shop which somehow encapsulates the Gorbachev dilemma, how to realise this country's economy without dismantling the Soviet system.

It is a kiosk, or second-hand shop, where the state buys and sells goods and takes a 7 per cent commission. It has also been for many years the focus of wealth-creation and social mobility in Moscow. This is the main kiosk for electronic goods, from stereo tape decks to video recorders, and it was only when I discovered it that I began to learn how the Soviet system works.

Returning diplomats and officials who had been on foreign delegations would make a bee-line for this place almost as soon as they had cleared customs. The video recorder that cost them £250 in Britain would go on sale here at 6,000 roubles or more. The stereo tape deck or the compact disc system or the Sony short-wave radio would command a proportionate mark-up.

Because of this, the permission for a Soviet citizen to travel abroad was like a licence to print money once they returned. And it was all entirely legal.

And it explained why the apartments of Muscovites who had often been abroad were much more lavishly equipped than those of people, even fairly senior officials who earned nominally far higher salaries, whose duties had kept them in the homeland.

When I first arrived in Moscow, this kiosk was a thriving place, the counters crowded with people waving thick wads of roubles, and talking knowledge-

ably in Russian about the difference between Grundig and Panasonic, about Dolby systems and graphic equalisers and freeze frames and playback speeds. The customers knew their stuff.

They also had the right to take an item home on approval for three days to see if it worked properly, before the deal was formally concluded.

All this has changed, since Gorbachev. It began with an experiment in a selected number of kiosk shops, which has now been extended nation-wide. This permits no secondhand product to be sold for more than the new price of an equivalent Soviet product.

Then it rules that any item unsold after two weeks should be marked down by 20 per cent, and after another three weeks by 30 per cent. The result was to empty the shelves of the kiosk shops as people stopped bringing their "second-hand" goods for sale.

But it has not stopped the business, which now takes place on the street outside the shop, or very discreetly through one or two of the more daring assistants who will put buyer and seller in private contact with each other, for a small commission on the eventual deal.

I tried this out the other day, went into the shop and looked at the sadly bare shelves, which contained two rather dowdy Soviet-made video recorders that have been nicknamed "tape eaters". I loitered, then waited in the street outside and a youth in jeans and leather jacket asked me if I were buying or selling.

research, on the whole question of SDI.

The US considers Mr. Gorbachev's promise to study Mr. Reagan's proposals "with responsibility and attention" as encouraging. The pace of diplomatic activity has quickened with the agreement for a meeting between the Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Shevardnadze, in September. Mr. Reagan's letter has set the stage for that meeting and the next summit talks.

In the letter, Mr. Reagan says that the US would continue for the next five years to research, test and develop Star Wars, "which is permitted by the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty." He did not define what activity would or would not be allowed under the 1972 treaty, nor did he say whether the US would adhere to a narrow or broad definition of the treaty.

US allies have been informed that the letter implied no change in the present restrictive interpretation of the treaty, although there was no pledge that this would continue. According to the Post, Mr. Reagan went on to propose that if SDI systems are shown to be feasible by 1991 — a wildly optimistic forecast, say critics — the US and the Soviet Union would then start discussions on how to manage "a transition period" to an era of defence weapons.

The discussions are to last no more than two years and if no agreement is reached, each side could unilaterally proceed with deployment of a space-based defensive system after six months' notice to the other party.

At the instance of President Reagan, the offer to share Star Wars technology was included in the letter, although this has been

"Selling a video. Panasonic," I said. It is worth noting at this point the usefulness of the Soviet empire to a foreign journalist. My Russian is far too poor for a Russian-speaker even to think of me as a fellow-national, but the people from the Baltic provinces often take a pride in their terrible mutilations of the Russian language. On a good day, I can pass for a short while as a Latvian.

We established that the video was almost new, that it could play Pal and Secam, and with the promise of throwing in four blank tapes I had an offer of 5,000 roubles in cash. I then made my excuses and left, as they say. At the legal exchange rate, that is almost £5,000.

The trade has not stopped. It has gone private. It has also gone effectively criminal, and the end of that three day approval period means that the entire business is now wide open to fraud.

But there is no sign that any of this black-market activity is reducing. You can find a black market in computer parts and software outside the pioneer shop on Gorky Street, and for electronic goods at the kiosk shop, and for Western rock music tapes and records at the youth cafe on Leninskiy Prospekt, all operating more or less openly.

It is the old story of supply and demand, and of human ingenuity outwitting the bureaucrat. And while one understands the distaste for the fast rouble that led the Gorbachev administration to clamp down on the kiosk, one wonders at the lack of imagination that has simply moved the trade to the black market.

## Reagan believed ready to bargain on SDI

By Mark Tran in Washington

almost universally derided.

Until the final stage of drafting, Mr. Reagan reportedly planned to propose that the US, the Soviet Union, Britain and France, sit down to multilateral discussions about offensive reductions beyond 50 per cent, when such talks are appropriate. But this was dropped after a strong protest from Mrs. Thatcher, who argued that the passage did not reflect British conditions for entering talks about reducing the country's nuclear weapons.

Another idea deleted from the final text, after strong objections from the Defence Department, was a proposal to reduce the number of US underground nuclear tests in proportion to cuts in the number of strategic weapons.

Star Wars is coming under threat from the congressional budget cutters. The Senate and the House of Representatives are moving to cut Mr. Reagan's \$5.3 billion by between \$1.5 and \$2 billion. Time is also running out for Mr. Reagan who, according to some accounts, is deeply influenced by his wife, Nancy, who wants to secure his standing in the history books.

It has been pointed out that Senate ratification of any agreement would have to take place in spring, 1988, to avoid getting caught up in presidential politics in the autumn.

### IN MEMORIAM

**WILLIAM WAYNFLETE**, Provost of Eton, Bishop of Winchester, Chancellor of England, Lancastrian, and Founder of Magdalen College, Oxford, died August 11, 1486.



## Bloodshed on the other side of the razor's edge

David Beresford reports from the Eastern Cape

A FEW miles outside Port Elizabeth — South Africa's "Detroit" — entanglements of razor-wire have been thrown up around a major black township called New Brighton, one of the oldest in the Eastern Cape. The use of razor-wire to seal it off is, in a sense, symbolic of the state of siege under which blacks find themselves in this province — an area which offers a gloomy portent for the future of South Africa as a whole.

The Eastern Cape has long been troublesome to the rulers of South Africa. In the late 18th and 19th centuries the British fought a series of bloody engagements with local tribesmen, the so-called Kaffir wars which reached a climax in the battle of Grahamstown which saw the defeat of the great Xhosa warrior-prophet Nxele.

In the second half of the twentieth century the province has produced the most famous names in the black liberation struggle: Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo and Steve Biko among them. It was in the Eastern Cape that the youth league of the African National Congress was born, which gave a new, militant impetus to the organisation's activities in the 1940s. The defiance campaign of the 1960s was most marked in the area. After the smashing of resistance in the post-Sharpeville era it was again in the province that black rebellion re-emerged with the birth of the black consciousness movement in the early 1970s.

The present bout of unrest began further north, in the Vaal triangle. But again it has been in the Eastern Cape that the rebellion has found its most dramatic expression: in monster political rallies at the funerals of black activists, in the development of an alternative grass-roots political system — township, street and area committees — as well as the launching of the consumer boycott movement.

Recognition of this vanguard role of the Eastern Cape has earned it the most ruthless application of the present state of emergency in the country — a repressive drive in which echoes can be heard of a letter written 174 years ago by the British governor, Sir John Cradock, to the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Liverpool: "... I am very happy to add that in the course of this service there has not been shed more Kaffir blood than would seem to be necessary to impress on the minds of these savages a proper degree of terror and respect."

The efforts of the present day South African authorities to "im-

press" the minds of the rebellious are not as bloody, but the principle is much the same. The terror implicit in the razor-wire at New Brighton is reflected in a paucity of information emerging from the townships and the difficulty in making contact with community

tions to maintain a list of detainees as such, with nearly 800 identified names in the Eastern Cape. On previous experience of the ratio of identifiable detainees to those actually held, this would suggest well over 2,000 are being held in the province.



Child victim of township unrest, his coffin covered by the colours of the ANC.

leaders many of whom — at least of those still on the loose — appear to be spending their lives in a variety of disguises.

A local MP, Mr Andrew Savage, quotes the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, as having told him recently: "I am not going to surrender any part of this country to informal government." And while the precise number of detainees is almost impossible to gauge accurately, they appear to have been sufficiently widespread to have effectively destroyed, at least for the time being, black political organisation in the Eastern Cape with the striking exception of the trade unions which, surprisingly, the authorities have left largely intact.

The Progressive Federal Party — the white parliamentary opposition — has a list of what it euphemistically calls "misleading persons" (deliberately euphemistic, because it appears to be a breach of the confused emergency regula-

The "terror" — that feeling which, as one activist described it, accompanies the sound of movements outside one's front door during curfew hours — is not limited to blacks. White liberal homes have been raided and housewives, students, and academics have joined the "missing persons" list, notably in the university city of Grahamstown, which Trollope described in 1877 as "a very pretty little town" and a contemporary traveller, the Rev. William Shrewsbury, as "England in miniature."

The activities of the security forces themselves cannot, of course, be reported under the emergency regulations. But there is a new dimension to security operations which is not subject to reporting restrictions — what are known as "law enforcement officers."

A significant facet of the conflict in other parts of South Africa has been the activities of the so-called

"vigilantes," conservative blacks who in many instances appear to have been encouraged by the authorities into conflict with young radicals on a "divide and rule" principle in the Eastern Cape. However, the relative political solidarity of the Xhosa people has not facilitated such tactics. Instead there is widespread use of law enforcement officers — known locally as the "Amachaka" (People of Chaka, the legendary Zulu warrior-king, because many appear to be Zulus imported from Natal).

The Amachaka are security guards recruited to police the townships by the government-established community and municipal councils. The councils themselves, as part of "the system," are highly unpopular — at least 30 out of the 50 established in the Eastern Cape having closed by the forced resignation of members. But their law enforcement officers continue to operate with a particularly fearsome reputation which is illustrated by stories like that of the killing of a boy called Rasta Ndabambi.

Rasta was among a group of youths who were allegedly attacked recently by a group of law enforcement officers on a primitive golf course at Walmer, another black township outside Port Elizabeth. The officers were apparently enraged at the theft of a radio from their vehicle. One of the youths afterwards described, in a sworn affidavit, how the officers opened fire on them as they ran for cover in a nearby graveyard. They were hiding in some bushes when the boy Rasta was spotted by the officers and told to come out.

"When he came out they shot him from about three metres away. They shot him in the stomach. They beat him up and he said sorry and he was crying and bleeding. After they beat him up, another law enforcement police officer drew his gun and shot him straight in the head. I saw all this from about 20 metres away." A discussion followed, according to the witness, in which it was suggested a statement would be made to police that the dead youth was a "stone-thrower." The account was supported by a statement from another youth who did not see the killing, but described hearing screaming, two whistles, and then silence.

The suspicion that such incidents are being covered up as killings of "stone-throwers" — a phrase regularly used by the Government's Bureau for Information to explain security force killings — is encouraged by another such incident in Walmer township, which was the subject of a Supreme Court restraint action in Port Elizabeth two weeks ago.

The action was successfully brought against Walmer law enforcement officers by Florence Menzi, whose husband, John, had been shot dead. Describing the killing, Mrs Menzi said they were sitting in their home when there was a banging and kicking on the door. She opened it, to be confronted by three law enforcement officers.

"They were all wearing their green uniforms with balacavas on their heads. I could not recognise any of them because of the balacavas, but they were all black men. They shouted, asking why I hadn't opened the door and when they saw my husband behind me, they rushed inside the room and began assaulting him. They slapped me as well.

My husband managed to flee out of the house and run behind the house at the back. They followed him out and I heard two

gunshots behind the house."

When Mrs Menzi and neighbours plucked up the courage to go outside they found a trail of blood, but it took her four days to find her husband... in the local mortuary. According to the affidavits before the court, the killing was reported by the authorities as that of another "stone-thrower."

But it is not only on the basis of such incidents that the Eastern Cape offers a gloomy portent. The province also provides evidence of what seems to be Pretoria's new philosophic approach — its apparent repudiation of the politics of conciliation, whether in its dealings with the international or domestic communities.

It can be found, for instance, in the handling of the consumer and school boycotts. In Port Elizabeth, where the consumer boycott has been almost 100 per cent effective, repeated appeals by businessmen to central government for help in defusing it have been ignored by Pretoria. The consequences are to be seen in the streets of the city which even under the emergency remains clear of black shoppers.

The attitude of the authorities in the face of such coercive action appears to be that of "the devil take the hindmost." With black unemployment approaching 60 per cent in the Eastern Cape the suffering for the hindmost is incalculable.

Similarly, on the schools issue, opportunities for conciliation appear to have been almost contemptuously disregarded by the government. The boycott of schools — over the latest government control measures for children, including the introduction of "school-passes" — has been widespread in this province. But there are comparatively high educational standards among the blacks of the Eastern Cape and there were indications last week of anxiety in the community to settle the issue and get the children back to classes.

Appeals were made to the department of education for a six-day postponement of last Friday's deadline for children to re-register and comply with the new regulations, but the appeals were dismissed. This week the department announced that it was beginning to close schools in the Eastern Cape, transferring teachers and equipment to other areas. With the likelihood that even conforming pupils will now be forced into a sympathy boycott, there are now real fears that the entire school system in the province faces collapse.

Political activists here refuse to accept that the country is facing a repeat of the 1980 crack-down — which effectively crushed black resistance for one-and-a-half decades — arguing that the politicisation of the masses has now gone too far. In conversation they repeatedly drop references to "when the emergency is over" and they ask hopefully what the international community is going to do.

After his defeat at the battle of Grahamstown, Nxele, surrendered to the British, having pledged that one day he would return to lead his people to freedom from the whites. He was incarcerated on Robben Island and drowned a year later while trying to escape. His personal possessions were not buried for another half century.

Today there is a phrase used by the Xhosa, "Kukukza Kukta Nxele," which translates as "The Coming of Nxele." It means a forlorn hope. And in their hope that liberation is near, the question is whether black South Africa is once again awaiting the coming of Nxele.

## American foreign policy in an intellectual vacuum

By Alex Brummer in Washington

NEARLY six years into the Reagan presidency the making of foreign policy is as bumpy a ride as it has ever been. While the President is still able to work his magic on Capitol Hill with certain issues, such as support for the Contras and arms for the Saudis, about which the differences among his advisers are less pronounced, on the great issues of our time — South Africa and arms control — his administration is hopelessly adrift.

On South Africa, where the United States with its modern civil rights history has had a better opportunity than almost any country to take the moral high ground, the Reagan White House has floundered badly. It allowed public hopes to be built on an important shift in policy away from Pretoria and then hatched an address which brought smiles only to P. W. Botha and his apartheid thugs. After the most misjudged speech of his presidency, Reagan and his aides are scrambling to limit the damage.

As if the chaos and infighting over the white lag were not bad enough, the US policymakers have been engaged in an even more divisive struggle over arms control. The result is a letter to Mr Gorbachev which barely disguises the cracks in Washington: at one and the same time it offers comfort

mind. As a result decisions, instead of being framed within some grand strategy in the way Kissinger or Brezhnev may have designed, are taken in an intellectual vacuum. Each passing decision is seen by his advisers as a chance to reinvent the wheel. So the same ideological struggles which divided the administration in the earliest days of 1981 still persist in the summer of 1986.

The problems are partly systemic and partly personal to Reagan himself. His preference for a collegial type of leadership — sometimes called cabinet government for want of a better term — means that the policy fight is never over until the President puts his initials to the national security directive, speech or statement. Thus the internal politicking continues to the last moment with Mr Reagan apparently unaware that Shultz and Weinberger aren't out on the links together enjoying themselves.

Even on the morning that Mr Reagan delivered his ill-fated South African speech, the Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, was hauled into the White House to verify whether some notes in the margin were his own and should be incorporated (they weren't). The communications director, Pat Buchanan, seizing a last-minute op-

portunity, slipped in some harsh language about the Communist influence in the ANC. Such shenanigans are commonplace and those officials with the most staying power and strongest views ultimately win in the end. It is no coincidence that Mr Reagan has had more national security advisers than any of his predecessors. The pressures are so great that the National Security Council has become an administrative maelstrom, where no single person can fight the ideological currents.

Those familiar with the workings of the NSC say that Robert McFarlane, who masterminded the preparation for the Geneva summit and engineered the first com-

mitted Western effort to force reforms on P. W. Botha, was simply worn down by the process. Similarly, Poindexter was so overstretched in recent days that he had little time to look at the domestic political ramifications of the President's decisions. His task was made even tougher when his deputy, Donald Fortier, with responsibilities for keeping his eye on the politics, was taken seriously ill. Add to this the bullying figure of White House chief-of-staff Donald Regan — "You either grovel at Don's feet or have a confrontation," one insider recently noted — and there is a permanent recipe for disaster.

None of this would matter very much if Mr Reagan was a more cerebral President with a world view. But as one foreign policy official told the New Yorker last week: "The truth is that the President doesn't have any foreign policy ideas — except that America should be militarily strong and we should push back communism." He is also mentally lazy and finds it difficult to grasp the more complex issues such as arms control.

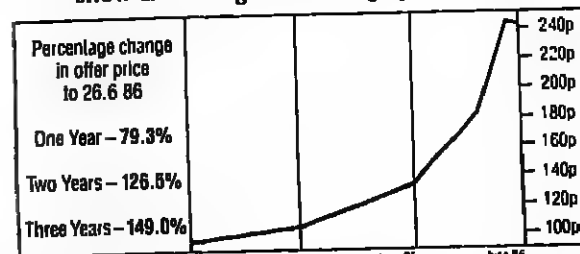
On each of the arms decisions facing the administration in recent days — how to respond to Mr Gorbachev's offer of a grand trade-off; how to deal with a special meeting on treaty violations, and what to do about continued Soviet pressure for a testing moratorium — the administration has been as dangerously split as ever.

Superficially, the peaceniks (if there are such people in this administration) appear to have won. The US went to the violations meeting, it is vaguely talking about a test ban treaty verification, and has come up with an ABM compromise. But none of this really matters unless the President can be convinced to give up SDI, which he genuinely believes can protect the US and the West from incoming missiles.

Mr Reagan hangs on to the ideas that he understands: SDI is safe, communism is bad, and big government is wasteful (even if he has presided over the largest federal expansion in history). Mr Reagan, always portrayed as the crafty negotiator and master politician can never lose: only his advisers can.

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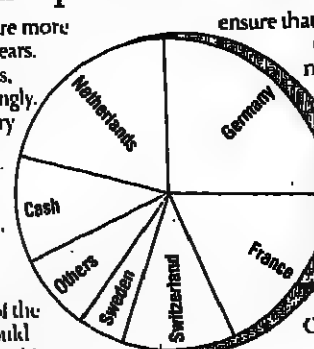
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### Appointment of Vice-Chancellor

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Persons interested in being considered for the post or wishing to suggest anyone for consideration are invited to write, in confidence, to Sir Andrew Stark, Pro-Chancellor, c/o the Registrar, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ.

The University hopes to receive applications from persons with a wide variety of backgrounds and experience for this post of principal academic and administrative officer. Further information about the post and the University may be obtained from the Registrar.



## An open world market for talent

PRESIDENT REAGAN is pushing through Congress a massive tax reduction programme which will send a fiscal tidal wave across the world. If the proposals go through then the top rate of tax in the US will fall from 60 per cent (compared with 60 per cent here) to only 27 per cent. When that happens the meaneast billionaires in America will pay less tax on any extra income he receives than low paid manual workers in the UK who now pay 29 per cent before relief.

This matters because the world has become an increasingly open market, as conservative governments everywhere have dismantled national barriers. Capital — and people — have become more mobile than ever. As President Mitterrand discovered to his cost during France's ill-fated (solo) economic expansion, it is difficult these days to have socialism in one country. The danger facing Britain and Europe is that the existence of such low top tax rates in the US will trigger an alarming drain of talent. The skills required for today's growth industries (like electronics, information technology and financial services) are

ominously footloose. American companies will be able to pick the cream of Europe's talent by offering much higher salaries and absurdly low (to us) tax rates. And these are the very people a future Labour government will need to produce the extra wealth which is supposed to pay for the improved benefits planned.

It is not necessarily reassuring to know that the Reagan tax revolution is all done by mirrors. He is not planning to reduce the overall burden of taxation at all, merely to redistribute it and remove many of the notorious "tax breaks" — for instance, relief on savings for retirement. Like a schizophrenic Robin Hood he is taxing the pampered middle classes and business corporations more heavily in order to reduce the burden for the richest and poorest tax payers. Businesses will now have to pay tax seriously for the first time in recent memory. They are going along with it because they believe that sales will benefit from a surge of consumer spending induced by lower taxation.

Anyone migrating to the US would, of

course, have to pay for many of the services (like health) which is paid here through the tax system. And tax relief on home ownership (including second homes) would remain. It is also possible that the Reagan package will backfire and that, instead of producing an influx of European white kids, it will contrive an exodus of US high-tech corporations seeking elsewhere the tax breaks denied to them under the new deal. But it must be tempting for other countries to follow the Reagan example and reduce taxes.

It is rightly repugnant to most liberal-minded people to give the rich even more money, especially at a time when poverty is getting even worse. But any future British left-of-centre government will find it much harder to strike the correct balance between wealth creation and its fair distribution. This is particularly so for Labour. The future of socialism in a world increasingly dominated by unfettered market forces needs more thought than end-of-term parliamentary frolics can give it. But it will not go away.

## Calling it off in Kabul

MR GORBACHEV has shown that he wants to tackle the sticky questions his predecessors put to one side. From his location, relations with the West are but one of a number. In the same way that he opened up relations with China for fresh reconnaissance in his speech at Vladivostok last week, he will also want to mark the re-entry of the Soviet Union into Middle East diplomacy, from which it has been conspicuously absent for a decade. For that to happen he first needs to extricate himself from Afghanistan where the presence of a Soviet Army to fight partisans (whatever their motivation) is taken by most of the Islamic world as a standing affront.

Shortly before the last round of "proximity talks" between Afghans and Pakistanis in Geneva, the Russians placed Babrak Karmal on the sacrificial altar and Pakistan ought to have been more impressed than it was. He had come to symbolise everything that was wrong with the Afghans' approach to their national unity problem, which is a real problem and will outlast an eventual Soviet withdrawal. The Geneva talks reassembled immediately after Mr Gorbachev's decision (unconditional, it seems) to withdraw six token regiments from the country. The numbers involved and their specialities are not of much consequence, especially as Soviet

troops are rotated about every six months and previous troop reductions have been made good later on. What they mean is that Mr Gorbachev is aware that withdrawal has become the last hurdle at the proximity talks.

Although the two sides in Geneva still don't talk directly to one another, the unforgiving good offices of the UN mediator, Mr Cordoba, have brought them to the point where almost everything except the timing of withdrawal has been agreed, at least in bold outline. There shall be no interference in Afghanistan of the kind which the government there alleged, at the time of the Soviet intervention, from Western-supported guerrillas. There shall be international guarantees of the country's independence, and the refugees shall return. On the timing, Kabul says four years, Islamabad says four months, and Moscow chimes in that that is totally unrealistic. But the withdrawal of six regiments need not be read only as designed to impress the Pakistanis and the United States. It also holds meaning for the Afghan government itself. In other words, the government cannot rely on an indefinite Soviet military presence and must make the greater efforts for which the Soviet press has long been calling to broaden the administration.

The origins of the war were murky in the

extreme, and owed as much to Soviet attempts to knock sense into an incompetent and strife-torn Marxist satellite as to any ideological or territorial ambition. But the continuance of the war has added new and equally unpleasant dimensions, apart altogether from the great suffering it has caused to those Afghan citizens well outside the political arena. It has kept Pakistan in American favour and has provided the US with a moral cause in the dispatch of arms to the guerrilla movements, all six of them, which may not be agreed on the Afghanistan that they want but can agree to harass the one that is there. It is not yet apparent that General Nabilullah can succeed where Babrak Karmal failed. The Russians have already worked their way through the potential Afghan leadership at a steady rate without yet cementing even the two halves of the Communist Party. They presumably do not expect a plant state like Bulgaria or Husak's Czechoslovakia, but they do need an identifiable entity to call the Afghan government and one which can demonstrate reasonably wide support among the people. But that is not the entire problem. The international dimension which Afghanistan has acquired needs to be eliminated too. It needs someone to say on behalf of Washington and Islamabad as well as Moscow: We're ready to call it off whenever you are.

## Third time Ronnie?

THE MODEST proposal is not, of course, a wholly serious one. Representative Guy Vander Jagt may be chief of the Republican National Congressional Committee, but he is not a big cheese, and his attempts to repeal the 22nd Amendment will get nowhere. The ban on American Presidents running for more than two terms will not be lifted. The spectre of a twinkling Ronald Reagan chuntering on in office into his eighties (and nineties?) will not become somewhat crinkled flesh. Mr Vander Jagt has less revolutionary thoughts in his mind, one may assume. Sucking up to the boss. Putting the wind up the Democrats. Raising early funds from voters who can't read the fine print.

Nevertheless, the future of the 22nd Amendment, is more than a knockabout debating point. It isn't some ancient and sacred decree, but a bit of post-war politicking by Republicans anxious to prevent another Franklin Roosevelt whipping them four times on the trot. And, realistically, it has not operated to the general benefit of the American electoral process. Look closely and that process is a very narrow, constricted timetable. If you want to be President, you have to start running early: in practical terms, almost four years before the election

you're aiming at. There are fund-raising plate dinners across the continent to be consumed. There are aides to gather. There is the vital net of ward committees to construct. Today, two-and-a-half years from Ronald Reagan's appointed retirement, we know well enough — on both sides — who seeks to succeed him. There may be a surprise entry or two, yet: but no very surprising ones. Meanwhile the Congressional election clock ticks dissonantly. Any incumbent President (Mr Reagan is no different) faces the mid-term judgment that may strip away much of his power. If the Senate goes Democrat in November, then the President's last two years are doomed to frustration and fundamental impotence. The window of opportunity for things done isn't the faded first hundred days, when the heart-sinking task of fitting would-be administration bottoms to seats is hardly begun. It comes, briefly, towards the end of the first year and for the first few months of the second, before the demands of the mid-term stump grow too clamorous. That is a pretty way to run a great country, and the two-term amendment hems such a timetable still further. It guarantees that Presidents — like Reagan — in their sixth year, are dead in the water from that point on. It means, inevitably, that the most

ambitious and commanding politicians withdraw from active service to a President almost at the beginning of his second term (if he's lucky enough to get one) in order to position themselves for next time.

In sum, it would be extremely beneficial to America if the 22nd Amendment went. Particularly beneficial if — as Mr Reagan cheerfully acknowledged — he cantored away into the sunset on schedule anyway. Month by month this President seems less of a mortal politician and more of a benign, somewhat befuddled constitutional monarch, presiding over a cacophony of warring advisers. He probably could be elected for a third term if he tried. But that would be as a pure figurehead, reading the anodyne speeches, pumping the conventional hands. America would have to find itself a real political leader down below somewhere to do the work.

That, in some ways, is all rather a pity. Three terms of President would be good for America and good for a political process which needs more time for coherence and reflection, and more honesty in the thought that he'll be around for the bust after his boom. First (when Mr Reagan's gone back to the ranch) actually repeal the 22nd. Then find a man for all seasons.

## Figuring things out

ACCORDING to a report in Paris Match, Mont Blanc is four feet higher today than it was when measured by scientists between 1892 and 1894. There can be several feasible explanations for that: climate change, maybe, or geological evolution. But it would surely be prudent to allow for another possibility: that someone simply got the measurement wrong.

Much the same caution is called for in the face of two recent opinion polls by MORI. The first, in the London Standard, based on sampling between July 18 and 22, under the heading "Maggie closes the gap on Labour", put Labour on 37 per cent and the Conservatives on 36. That, said the commentary, was the biggest shift from the MORI poll to the next in two years. The change could be connected, it suggested, with Commonwealth tension over South Africa, where Mrs Thatcher's opposition to sanctions certainly seemed to have done no harm. There was nothing in the survey, it added, to suggest that voting intentions had been altered by reports of alleged differences between Downing Street and the Palace.

Now switch to the poll in The Times, based on a sample taken on July 30 and 31. This appeared under the headline: "Roar for Labour after Palace-Thatcher rift." It showed a four point rise in Labour support since the Standard poll and a four point drop in support for the Conservatives — an even bigger shift than the one which had surprised the Standard. "The Government", said the commentary, "has suffered a dramatic loss of support in the wake of the controversy over the alleged rift between the Queen and Mrs Thatcher over South Africa. Another big factor has been growing public opposition to the Government's failure to take a tougher line against South Africa."

MORI has an unenviable reputation for getting things right on the night. It was spot on with the 1983 election. And The Times report, which was clearly written with the help of MORI guidance, claims some consistency between these two performances, arguing that the signs of a Tory slump were detectable even when the Standard poll (the one headlined "Maggie closes the gap on Labour") was taken. The last two days of polling for the Standard, according to the story in The Times, had actually produced a Labour lead.

And maybe it's true that the Palace controversy has set the electors rocking around like so many bucking broncos — though, on all the previous evidence, one would hardly have expected that an imagined snub by Mrs Thatcher to the Queen would have set off a sudden stampede in the direction of Mr Kincock. But it would surely be prudent to allow for another possibility: that someone simply got the measurements wrong. Monitoring public opinion may not be quite so fraught and complex as measuring Mont Blanc, but it can be a hazardous business, where margins of error can sometimes betray the most skilled and astute practitioners. The essential rule of the game, which Westminster and Fleet Street honour in theory but rarely observe in practice, is not to get carried away by the result of a single poll.

It is also, while we're at it, unwise to assume without further checking that an issue where the Government has a majority of voters against it will necessarily do it electoral harm. MORI and NOP have both charted the same reaction to government policy on South Africa. People tend to agree with Mrs Thatcher that sanctions are not the answer. But they still don't like the way she is handling the issue. MORI in The Times shows 25 per cent of voters satisfied, and 65 per cent dissatisfied.

Even so, if this issue is indeed damaging the Prime Minister and her party, that could have much less to do with the ordinary voter's responses to President Botha, Bishop Tutu and the rest, familiar television figures though they have all become, than with the impression of division and unresponsiveness which the Government has presented. Doubts about the Government's competence and credibility which set in during the Westland affair could be compounded if this persists. It may be this, rather more than the latest shock news from the pollsters, which will trouble the more level-headed Conservative MPs, sanctioners and friends of Pretoria alike.

## Le Monde ENGLISH SECTION

### Minister needs to curb 'trigger happy' police

Eric Laignel, the 23-year-old policeman who shot dead a young motorcyclist, William Normand, 24, in the Paris suburb of Fontenay-sous-Bois (Val-de-Marne) on Thursday last week, is to face charges. He has not pleaded self-defence. Laignel is reported to have realised what he had done. Police say they found a pistol and various other objects when they searched Normand's

apartment which made them think he was the motorcycle-riding snatch thief who had been sought in the area for the past two years.

The victim's family is firmly contesting the allegations and has engaged legal counsel. The incident happened when Normand, a dental technician, riding a powerful motorbike, ran into a police patrol car and apparently tried to get away by riding the wrong way up a one-way street.

demands it and the minister knows it well.

Who is better placed than he to be concerned about the development over these past ten years of what are generally known as police "slip-ups"? When he was police director-general of the only director-general of the national police, the most serious accidents were frequently the result of ineptness among police services and a lack of self-possession. Spurred on powerfully by the campaign against major armed

By Laurent Grelisamer

We can imagine the relief felt by Charles Pasqua (Minister of the Interior) and Robert Fauriol (Minister responsible for Public Security) when they heard on Friday the catalogue of crimes that could presumably be laid at the young motorcyclist's door. In his own way the Val-de-Marne prefecture more than jumped the gun on the summary inquiry by announcing William Normand's guilt one and a half hours after the incident. Consequently, it must be pointed out that the only person whose reaction fitted the facts remains the man who fired the gun who, having seen the death of his victim, had an attack of nerves.

In the present case, we are still waiting for Robert Fauriol to be just as firm in honestly condemning such tragic breaches of the penal code as certain police liberties, which he had promised to deal with "unmercifully". The case

"assaults and injuries". In 1983, a 17-year-old Tunisian who was bending over a light motorcycle was shot in the head by a police sergeant who was subsequently charged with "attempted murder".

A new trend has emerged in the last three or four years, with some policemen not hesitating to open fire, when they are not directly threatened, on persons trying to escape. The shooting incident on the Rue Rossini in 1982 was indicative of this "cowboy" state of mind. A young girl was killed hit by two bullets in the back in the stolen car in which she was travelling with friends. There are resemblances between the death of Lofc Lefebvre, less than a month ago on the Rue Mogador in Paris and Thursday's death of William Normand: both were characterised by the same haste and irresponsibility. Death for offences which in worst are liable to be taken before a magistrate's court. Death on mere suspicion.

This rapid review shows that police "slip-ups" are not the exclusive property of any particular political majority. Pandraud is therefore right to deplore the "exploitation of corpses for political purposes". But he would be applauded even more if he had the strength to condemn such killings. A minister responsible for public security has a duty to keep his police in check, at least to remind them that their job is to protect citizens, not to harass them. (Not to harass them.)

The Conseil Constitutionnel, which acts as the country's watchdog of the constitutional propriety of legislation enacted by parliament, ruled on July 29 that several major provisions of the new law on the press passed on June 27 were unconstitutional. The provisions of the new law on the press passed on June 27 were unconstitutional. The Conseil declared that Article 11 of the law on limiting newspaper ownership and Article 12 which prescribed penalties for the interdictions decreed by the article has been dropped. Article 21 of the new law rescinding the entire decree concerning the organisation of the press in France, dating from 1944, and the law of October 23, 1984 "aimed at limiting press concentration and guaranteeing pluralism and financial openness in press finances" have also been declared unconstitutional.

## Constitutional improprieties

By André Fontaine

HOW MANY of the Socialists who expressed satisfaction at Tuesday's ruling by the Conseil Constitutionnel's nine "wise men" on pluralism in newspapers realise what they owe to Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Roger Frey? Yet it was what these two did in 1974 when the former had just been elected President of the Republic and the latter President of the Conseil Constitutionnel that permitted the constitutionalisation of the laws before this supreme body. Until then this was the prerogative of the President of the Republic and the presidents (speakers) of the National Assembly and the Senate.

How many of these same Socialists remember the spiteful declaration that the Conseil's position on the nationalisation issue provoked could be compounded if this persists. It may be this, rather more than the latest shock news from the pollsters, which will trouble the more level-headed Conservative MPs, sanctioners and friends of Pretoria alike.

ly in the wrong because you are politically in a minority." And Lionel Jospin, First Secretary of the Socialist Party, was quick to affirm that "great reformist movements have never let themselves be stopped by any supreme court whatever".

It is a sign of the times that nobody in the new ruling Majority talks in such terms today. Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, moreover, put a dampener in advance on his own followers' reactions at his July 21 news conference when he noted that France had become "an adult democracy... what the Conseil Constitutionnel decides is by definition legal, and I consider it as such."

Although it means having to seek President Mitterrand's support for his position, the Prime Minister nevertheless considered that "what may be called the system of government by judges should not be allowed to develop." And he added: "Though this is not

the case yet, there is certainly a problem that needs attention."

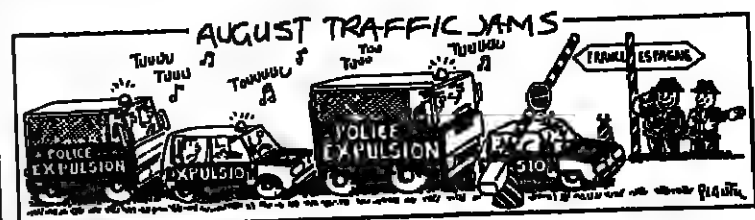
Put in simpler terms, this means that in Chirac's view it is not up to the Conseil Constitutionnel to be like the Supreme Court of the United States: which it could certainly not do without straying quite a long way from the very spirit of the Constitution it is expected to enforce.

In the American system, it is a question of strictly applying the separation of powers, according to the classic definition provided by Montesquieu in "L'Esprit des Loix". There are three kinds of powers in every State: legislative powers, executive power over matters that proceed from the rights of people, judicial power over matters that proceed from individual rights. The Supreme Court, as its name indicates, is the highest judicial authority. As Bernard Tricot and Raphaël Hadas-Labelle pointed out in their work "Les Institutions Politiques,"

the Conseil Constitutionnel, like the Karlsruhe Court in the

## Basques face quick return to Spain

France is continuing to pursue its policy of promptly extraditing Basques suspected of involvement in separatist activities on French territory. Two more more Basques living in France, believed to be members of ETA, were arrested and handed over to the Spanish authorities this week. A third Basque, who is a political refugee, has been arrested after an extradition demand by Madrid. Juan Ruiz de Gauna became the fifth Basque refugee to be handed back to Spain. He had been arrested at Anglet less than an hour before his extradition. Like the other four Basques who were expelled ten days earlier, he too had a valid residence permit. The Pyrénées-Atlantiques prefecture justified its rapid response on grounds that terrorist attacks were being prepared. Yves Jourfa, president of the League of Human Rights, described the procedure as a "perversion of extradition laws". Later in the day it became known that another Basque, Koldo Doberan Uribe, had been sent back to Spain in the same summary manner. José Maria Berastain, one of 19 Basques who have been granted political refugee status, was arrested and remanded in Pau prison because two extradition warrants taken out by Madrid. The Spanish government has a month in which to forward the file on Berastain to French legal authorities.



SOME MEETINGS do not have to be long to be important. French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond spent no more than five hours in Madrid on Wednesday last week. His visit confirmed and extended the distinct improvement in Franco-Spanish relations began early in 1984. Before he returned to Paris, the French minister expressed his satisfaction at the excellent climate in which the talks took place with his Spanish counterpart, Francisco Fernandez Ordonez.

This was hardly surprising considering the gestures that Jacques Chirac's government has been making lately. But the fact is that Chirac had his work cut out to calm the fears sparked off by his action as Prime Minister in 1974-1976 and his attitude during the last election campaign. Once firmly opposed to Spain's entry into the EEC, last winter he again called for renegotiation of Spanish membership conditions. Since becoming Prime Minister, Chirac seems to

have completely forgotten this part of his election manifesto and even went so far as to stand firmly behind Spain when the United States threatened retaliatory measures against Europe because of the harm done to American agriculture as a result of Spain's joining the Community.

As European issue is a sensitive power-sharing issue on which President François Mitterrand is determined not to overlook any governmental error, Prime Minister Chirac had to make sure his bumbling that characterised his

### COMMENT

relations with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany was forgotten. This is why we are today witnessing the Franco-Spanish dossier being tackled with realism and a spirit of give-and-take. As the circumstances, it will come as no surprise if Spanish Foreign Minister Fernandez Ordonez has grasped the opportunity to bring up two matters in which he is particularly interested.

They are the Community's Mediterranean policy, which Madrid would like to be less favourable to the Magrebian countries whose farm products are in direct competition with Spain's, and the Gulf of Gascony fishing dispute. In the latter case, on the other hand Madrid does not want France to go back on long established practice which allow Spanish trawlers in zones which French fishermen wish to be reserved for them.

These are not new problems, are a part of the "obsessive tête-à-tête" between France and Spain which has more than once nearly turned into confrontation. But to overcome this dense Chirac has not backed away from reporting to drastic measures. Proof of this is the series of expulsions of Basque activists who have been living on this side of the border and the arrest, on Wednesday, of a political refugee who the object of an extradition warrant taken out by a Spanish court.

The question is whether Jacques Chirac and Felipe Gonzalez will present a united front when the Spanish Prime Minister makes a scheduled visit to Paris at the end of the year. The liberalism of the Basque and the socialism of the other: not so doctrinaire that, on the fi of it, it will prevent them acting in tandem.

The Conseil Constitutionnel, like the Karlsruhe Court in the



**QUESTION:** You have just said that you have obtained further documents proving large-scale misappropriation of funds. Can you be more precise?

**Nucci:** They are cheques made out to me and endorsed with falsified signatures. These cheques — for a total of £400,000 — come from the bank accounts of Carrefour du Développement and La Promotion Française (La Promotion Française was founded on March 27, 1985: there were three people on its board — Yves Challer, Marie-Danielle Behisson, 35, head of cabinet (now suspended) of the Cher prefect and former head of the cabinet of Yvette Roudy, Minister of Women's Rights in the Socialist government; Lucette Norbert, a 71-year-old clairvoyant.)

The cheques were made out to you. You have already declared that you never went to the bank to cash them. Were they put into your personal account?

Certainly not. None of these cheques were put into my personal account.

So, what became of them?

Some of them were probably put into the joint account (Nucci and Challer had a joint official account).

Did you hear of funds transiting through your joint account?

I've begun to see them. These movements of funds amount to about £2 million, which is far short of the figures being bandied about.

This account was kept supplied out of the Matignon's secret funds (the prime minister's office). Was it also supplied by Carrefour du Développement and La Promotion Française?

That's right not to have happened, unless perhaps if these cheques — with my signature forged on them — were paid into it.

You say what your election campaign cost and who financed it?

My campaign cost around £400,000. One of it was financed by the reimbursement I had to make and the other by the firm OFRES which agreed to provide "technical support".

OFRES gave its support without asking for anything in return?

Without anything in return. Financing of election campaigns by private firms is very common. I hope things are clear now. Let people clean up their own messes. It's normal practice in an election campaign. In any case, no public funds went into my election campaign. As far as OFRES was concerned, my role was limited to asking my printer (who printed his election literature) to get in touch with this firm (so he could be paid).

When you asked the treasurer of the Parliamentary Socialist Party for an advance to pay off the printer, did you explain to him the circumstances of the request?

I asked a Socialist group for help to settle a debt. I didn't give any other explanation and I didn't need to.

M Challer declares that a number of meetings were financed by Carrefour du Développement.

Listen, M Challer's behaviour is odd, paradoxical and suspicious. He sends a note which I still haven't read and which implicates me. In his interview he implicates other political figures, on both right and left. Everything M Challer writes and says is believed. I say, if that is the truth, why did he leave? Why choose a country which has no extradition treaty with France? Finally, I raise questions about the circumstances of the interview.

He talks of a meeting that cost £300,000.

What meeting? He's lying. In a campaign such as the one I led, public meetings are usually held in halls which are lent free of charge. In rural communes, you are received into the mayor's office. Why is M Challer lying? Haven't there been some purpose behind all this from the beginning?

## Constitution

(Continued from page 11)

Federal Republic of Germany and similar institutions in Austria, Italy, Spain and Greece, has a far more limited role than the US Supreme Court apart from verifying the legality of elections and, where necessary, the application of Article 16 which grants exceptional powers to the Head of State in the event of a crisis, its job is basically to keep a check on whether legislation is constitutional. This is a substantial innovation

in our country, where until 1958 there was no such body in existence, since the Senate's authority in this area as recognised by Bonapartist constitutions may be regarded as purely formal.

Even after 1958, the separation of powers took time to become fact. De Gaulle's respect for the judiciary's independence did not stop him from abolishing the Military High Tribunal by decree because it was guilty of having refused to sentence General Salan to death, and replacing it with a military court of justice in such conditions that

its presiding judge, General de Larminat, committed suicide shortly afterwards. Nonetheless, the Conseil constitutionnel has from this time been playing a positive role in safeguarding fundamental liberties. Although the appointment of its members by the President of the Republic and the Presidents of the two Assemblies brought the Conseil into ideological line with the State until 1981, it has frequently met the Opposition's approval. Inevitably though, it did much more once the Opposition's

political colour changed. The fact remains, however, that by confining itself to its fundamentally judicial role it has all the same facilitated the work of François Mitterrand and Gaston Defferre who fortunately did not feel he should question the institutions. The appointment of Daniel Mayer as its president, and later of Robert Badinter, as well as the replacement of many of its members have not made it change course, and a careful reading of last week's ruling will uncover little to fuel the Prime Minister's

fears about a "government of judges". Indeed, contrary to Socialist expectations, the Conseil refused to take sides on the wisdom of the ceiling of 30 per cent of the market that the law placed on the ambitions of press groups. It merely observed that the article on this point was so drafted it could be legally circumvented and it was this provision that it ruled unconstitutional. In the circumstances, one can only agree with Louis Favreux who says that while the Conseil

The "affair" came to light on April 28 of this year when Minister of Co-operation Michel Aurillac announced he had turned over to the public prosecutor a file concerning Carrefour du Développement, a government sponsored association set up in June 1983 and wound up on January 1, 1988. The Cour des Comptes had discovered certain "irregularities" in its books and wanted to talk to its former treasurer, Yves Challer, a 45-year-old New Caledonian-born graduate of the prestigious Saint Cyr military academy (he held the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel) who had been Carrefour's treasurer. Challer was the head of the private cabinet of Christian Nucci, the Minister of Cooperation in the last Socialist government.

But Challer had dropped out of circulation and was reported to be in a Latin American country, probably Paraguay, from where he kept issuing statements through his lawyer. He even sent a handwritten but unsigned letter to Aurillac which was deposited in his ministry's letter box. The letter, written in the third person, explained: "After March 16, Yves Challer went to Israel for a week's holiday. On his return, he discovered he had misappropriated £10 million." In the letter he implicated his former boss Nucci, and Louis Mermaz, the speaker of the National Assembly in an alleged misuse of public funds for political purposes. Challer went further. In a later interview with Figaro Magazine he implicated others.

Nucci has filed a suit, so have half a dozen other persons whose names have been dragged into the case.

Nucci claims the signatures on cheques which he is said to have signed authorising the use of public funds for dubious purposes are forgeries. He says he has unearthed ten more cheques for a total sum of about £400,000. In this interview he explains how his election campaign was financed and rejects Challer's allegations.

As the "scandal" which some have so eagerly awaited has died down, as the Socialist Party has nothing to do in this affair, attempts are being made through M Challer (or Challer himself is endeavouring) to involve many public figures.

Were the meetings referred to by Challer really paid for by Carrefour du Développement?

The figures given concerning the various meetings held in Beaupaire (Nucci's constituency) or elsewhere are utterly false. Some of the expenses were paid by Carrefour du Développement — they concerned operations to make the public aware of development problems.

There were two visits by African ambassadors. Contrary to what M Challer says, the one in 1983 was paid directly by the Ministry of Cooperation. The one in 1985 cost a little more because it had been organised at the same time as a week of activities at Beaupaire with African craftsmen working in the commune. The operation cost about £400,000, not counting the cost of travelling to Sainte-Cécile-les-Vignes. This is nothing like the figures put forward by M Challer.

And the festivities?

I used the anniversary of my appointment as minister to bring together the people of the region and, through a show or an exhibition, to make them aware of the problems of development. On December 8, 1985, we received a delegation of Algerian politicians. Who better than Carrefour du Développement could finance such activities? That was precisely its aim.

M Challer also says there was a video



Christian Nucci

## Light on the Nucci affair

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M Challer also says there was a video

Carrefour du Développement. I know it existed. For the I never rented an apartment. normally

In the interview he gave Figaro Magazine, M Challer says in connection with the summit, that security personnel and sent over to cope with Libyan threats. Who were these agents?

What I found out was that the matter had been settled with the department responsible for official visits.

Mercenaries could also have been sent to the spot?

Not as far as I know. A whole infrastructure had been set up with the help of the Service de Coopération Internationale de Police (SCITIP).

M Challer says that government employees were paid in cash under the table. I'd be surprised that public employees agreed to that.

Finally, it should be known that the cost of this summit — about £65 million — is roughly what France spends in Burundi every year.

Is it true you asked M Challer to go and explain things to the Secretary of State for the Budget when the Customs services tipped off M Emmanuel Budget Minister under the Socialists?

I sent him to answer a summons from the director of M Emmanuel's private cabinet. I didn't hear any more about it.

On February 11 or 12 the Cour des Comptes informed the head of my cabinet that he was going to look into Carrefour du Développement because large sums of money had passed through the association. We were happy the step was being taken, thinking that the entire associative system gravitating around the Ministry of Cooperation would benefit from it. If I had got wind of any embezzlement, do you think I'd have been stupid enough not to have been worried or taken precautions?

You were aware of the meeting that President Mitterrand granted M Challer on April 15?

I heard of it later.

Afterwards, M Mitterrand received me and asked for explanations and told me to follow up the case.

How did a large number of records happen to be found by the PJ (Criminal Investigation Department) in premises rented by M Challer?

They were cabinet records and personal papers. In fact, the day after March 16 (the elections) I had no office in Paris. The records had been stored in an office M Challer had. I had no reason to distrust him at the time.

Afterwards I asked him to take the records sought by M Aurillac to the Ministry of Cooperation.

Do you feel you have been "trapped"?

I think everything today prompts me to think that my confidence has been abused, that M Challer took advantage of his position, his functions and his power to misappropriate funds, unknown to me.

You spoke of political exploitation...

Scraps of information have been made public over the weeks. It seems to me there is an attempt to turn this case into a summer serial. Right from the beginning, there was a determination to mount a political operation, a determination to get at the Socialist Party, highly placed figures and myself. Why, and who is doing it?

Moreover, it seems to me there is an attempt to get at prominent figures in the laïca département. Everybody is agreed that I'm solidly entrenched in my constituency and that I get full support in my commune.

In any case, I'm getting expressions of sympathy from the left and the right. I have very good friends, including friends in the world of politics.

(August 1)

THE GUARDIAN, August 10, 1988

BOGOTA — A young woman has money. She is unemployed. She has debts or a sick day's pay whose hospital bills she cannot pay. One day a man calls out to her from a car as she is walking in the street. He says he knows everything about her — her name, address, family and financial difficulties — and that he could help her. It's a very simple job and well paid: to take a trip to Paris (or Rome or Madrid) and make a "delivery". Air fare and hotel expenses will, of course, be all paid by the sponsor. Once the job has been done, there were \$1,000 to \$2,000 to be earned.

Many do not resist the prospect of making such money, although it is small change compared with the value of the "cargo". The mysterious stranger — he does not reveal his identity or gives a false name — takes care of everything: passport and air ticket. Then he delivers the goods — dozens of white balls — the "mule" has to swallow.

Three days before the journey, she has to stop eating. "You have nothing to worry about. Once you arrive, you take a taxi to this hotel. There you will wait until someone comes for you."

Many such mules do not return from their trips. They are immediately spotted at the airports where the police let them through to find out their contacts and then arrest them. If you are a Colombian, and you look haggard and have a new passport, that is enough to raise suspicions. After three days with nothing to eat and a night on the plane — apart from the anguish of having the drugs in your stomach — it's hard to look your best. The appearance is pale, worn out and the hands tremble. If, on top of that, the "mule" has taken pills to

Mules is the name given to Colombians who transport cocaine from one country to another for the Mafia. Bogota newspapers recently revealed how these carriers are recruited and how they transport their cargoes.

## 'Mules' find a captive market for Colombia's deadly 'snow'

combat travel sickness (as a precaution against inopportune vomiting), her mouth will be dry, her eyes feverish and her heartbeat irregular.

At Madrid airport, the police suspect suspects to X-rays. At Orly and Roissy, trained dogs sniff luggage for the powder that may be concealed in the false bottoms of suitcases. One hundred and twenty Colombians were picked up in this way in France, and a similar number in Spain. Among them were students, business people and even a former priest. Nearly all of them had agreed to do the work because of financial problems. Carriers are most frequently recruited in the street or by telephone. But there are other methods.

Business people and industrialists who have hit a bad patch are suddenly offered unexpected "help". Then one day the generous partner asks for repayment. But he does not want money, just a "small service" — transport something to Europe or the United States.

The daily El Tiempo, which published an investigation into the problem in June, explains that not all the "mules" are voluntary. There are also "blind mules" who are not aware what they are carrying. The newspaper cites the case of a particularly gullible 21-

year-old Colombian woman, now serving time in the Fleury Mérégis gaol in France, who thought the 65 white balls she was made to swallow were "emeralds". The man who buttonholed her in the street explained to her: "I have to send some emeralds to Paris, but there are too many to take with me. So, as I don't want to pay any taxes, I'll have to hide them."

The other case related by the newspaper is about a young woman who fell in love with an Italian

By Charles Vanhecke

at Cartagena and agreed to go with him to Rome. As they were about to leave, the Italian asked her to take with her a "flask of deodorant" for which he had no room in his suitcase. When the plane stopped at Madrid he got off, saying he had some business to settle in Spain and promising to join his girlfriend in a few days.

The woman was spotted at Rome airport. The police searched her luggage and found the "flask of deodorant" which was stuffed with cocaine. She was given five years in gaol. She could not prove she had been duped.

Apart from the "blind mules", there are also "sacrificial goats" — people the Mafia send out to be

caught with the drug in their stomachs so as to divert attention from the real "cargo". In the same plane as the inexperienced "mules" who have fasted for three days and possess revealingly new passports there are soberly turned out people looking like businessmen who have every possible alibi and without any fuss carry the cocaine through customs in their hand luggage.

The "mules" were the inspiration behind Colombian director Ciro Duran's first feature film. Duran became known in 1981 with a short film on the young children who live in the streets of Bogota.

This time, in an American co-production, he has chosen to recount how a young girl serving in a bar decides, out of love, to become a "mule" on a trip to the United States. At first called "Caine Cowboy", Ciro Duran's film was later given a more poetic title by the American producers: "Tropical Snow". "Snow" which is a good subject for a film in the US.

There is another danger in Colombia which has been worrying the authorities in recent years. It is bazooka, a mix of cocaine, kerosene, ether, sulphates and other chemicals. The bazooka is smoked and its effect is instant and violent. The

high it produces lasts only a few minutes. And to keep it up, the smoker keeps lighting one cigarette after another. Then comes the depression.

The bazooka owes its popularity (one quarter of Colombians smoke it and 5 per cent are addicts) to its cheapness. But the fact is, it eventually ends up being just as expensive a habit as any other drug, for the anxiety it causes leads to the addict chain-smoking them.

A few months ago the weekly La Semana revealed that regular private bazooka clubs have sprung up in Bogota's trendier neighbourhoods. Chic women and dapper executives are the usual clients of these clubs which are in the back rooms of restaurants or even in private residences equipped with leather-upholstered furniture and staffed by gracious waiters who take the tobacco out of cigarettes and fill the space with the drug. To heighten their sensations, the smoker sips a whisky from time to time.

The bazooka is marketed in a "democratic" way, as Colombian television showed recently. It is openly sold in the heart of the capital. All you need is to show your money to buy it. An Indian woman hawking chewing gum and cigarettes on the pavement would sometimes leave her stall and walk up and down. The drug is hidden in her "ruana" (Colombian poncho). The buyer will accost her and walk on, the deal having been conducted very rapidly.

Police keep watch in the district. TV reporters staked out in vantage points in a building have seen them quietly tipping off the Indian women selling bazookas before a swoop.

(July 28)

## Fire turns the hillsides of Provence into a 'desert'

By Guy Porte

NICE — One of the most beautiful sites on the Côte d'Azur was devastated in a matter of hours on Sunday, July 27, by a forest fire that leapt over cliffs and galloped down slopes in a fury all the way from La Turbie to Eze. On this warm and sultry Sunday afternoon people flocked here with their families to contemplate the disaster.

The lush garrigue with its stands of pines and oak has given way to a landscape of loose grey and blackened stones from which wisps of smoke were still rising.

The forest fire has not only caused destruction, it has also brought to light the garbage hidden by nature — the tins, bottles and rubbish of every sort dumped by roadides. Insult added to injury. Here and there, the fire has spared a hilltop or valley bottom which have retained their finery amid a sea of desolation. Sometimes also the fire barely singed the tops of pines and swept by beneath their needles.

At Eze, it circled around this village perched on a rocky outcrop and swept through most of the commune. For 77-year-old André Ganton, who has held the office of mayor of this village without interruption for the past 39 years, the disaster is terrible.

"We'd worked like Trojans to beautify this little corner of ours," he tells the endless stream of journalists coming to see him.

Letters to the Editor are welcomed but not all can be acknowledged. We don't like cutting them but sometimes this is necessary to get them in the paper — short letters stand a better chance. Send them to The Guardian Weekly, PO Box 18, Cheshire, Cheshire SK6 1DD, England.

"Given such a disaster, I don't know what to say. It's terrible, terrible... We're not going to give up. We'll begin again. But I won't be around to see the commune become green again. I don't even know whether the younger generations will witness it. There's so much to do. We'll need considerable resources..."

It is when you go towards the Riviera, one of the fortifications overhanging the Grande Corniche, that the full extent of the disaster hits you. "The fire reached here early in the evening," a villager said. "It just did what it wanted."

The thick walls of the fort, where a detachment of the Chasseurs Alpins was stationed until 1981, served as a barrier to the flames which swept over its grassy terraces, but all the slopes around have been blackened and stand out against the backdrop of a blue sea.

The odd ramble would look around and turn back. "On Sunday there were plenty of people here as always," said one. "Now, nobody is going to come round for a long time."

The fire has also almost completely destroyed the Grande Corniche's département park to the west of the Eze pass where major reforestation had been carried out in recent years. A National Forest Board hearing, standing at the entrance to the Plateau de la Justice on the old Roman road leading to it, warns (now rather incongruously) in four languages that "the forest is fragile" and "vulnerable to fire". You walk past a corpse and then it is the desert.

More than 1,100 hectares have gone up in smoke along the ten kilometres of hillside going from the Eze pass to the Tête de Chien overlooking Monaco. The hill is really disfigured. But another fire to the east took on even more serious proportions. Some 2,200 hectares were destroyed by the flames in the Berre-les-Alpes,

Bendejun and Contes communes and in the two valleys of the Paillon.

At Berre, a picturesque village built on an overhanging promontory with the ruins of an old feudal castle towering over it, the mayor, Maurice Lavagna, also totted up the damage done. The commune's magnificent 200-hectare public forest has been heavily affected. In this case, the fire completed the damage done by frost in the past two years by destroying the mimosas and attacking the stands of Aleppo pine, holm oak and maturing oak trees. This small resort and residential village north of Nice will, like Eze, be binding its wounds for a long time to come.

"People are speaking of an ecological disaster," says Henri Marotti, head of the National Forest Board's Alpes-Maritimes office. "But if the present appearance of the fire-ravaged zones is impressive, it won't stay that way. A part of the landscape will be fixed by nature itself. In areas where tree seeds have not disappeared, natural regeneration will take place. It's still too early to say what will happen. Everything will depend on the weather between now and the autumn. If torrential rain bleaches the soil it will be awful. If on the other hand, the rain is moderate or the drought continues, herbaceous vegetation will sprout again and bind the soil together."

The garrigue will grow again, as it did after previous forest fires. Rockroses, mastic trees, myrtle and gorse will once more cover the steep rocky slopes. Oaks too will produce shoots. But foresters dread the appearance of highly inflammable species. "They're veins of powder liable to blow up at any moment," pointed out Didier Dumay, Forestry Commission engineer and head of the fire-fighting section. Whatever it is, the forest will have to be replanted and at a

minimum cost of £15,000 per hectare the bill is likely to be quite steep. Too steep.

What is more, nature cannot be ordered about. In the dry, mid-hillside zone an Aleppo pine grows only an average of one millimetre a year. Cedars, which are being considered for reforestation on a certain scale, grow faster and spread more easily. But it takes decades to obtain a plantation that

is interesting from a landscape viewpoint.

So the eastern part of the Côte d'Azur has suffered aesthetic and ecological damage that will last for a long time if not for ever in some parts. Tourists will not stop coming to the "eagle's eyrie" of Eze. But many of the tourism development projects are now likely to be reviewed.

(July 29)

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## The Washington Post

### Selling Wheat, Buying Votes

ELECTION YEARS have never brought out the best in Bob Dole. As orchestrator of the current effort to keep the Senate in Republican hands, he is once again letting a close contest cloud his judgment. We have in mind his successful high-pressureing of the administration on wheat sales to the Soviet Union.

This administration — American conservatives generally — has a mixed history on the hard subject of commerce with the Soviet Union. One of the president's earliest acts in office was to cast aside the Carter grain embargo. But he is also the administration that fought the Soviet gas pipeline to Europe, in part on grounds that it would greatly benefit the Soviets and leave the Europeans too dependent on them.

A minimal position for both the administration and those with Mr. Dole's general approach to foreign affairs would seem to be that the United States should not subsidize the Soviet Union, and particularly not at the expense of such allies as Australia and Argentina. They, too, export wheat, for the most part apparently well within the rules, moaning without blatant subsidy, and they will now lose, or fear they will, insofar as U.S. farmers gain. The case of Argentina, a vulnerable democracy that needs foreign sales to service large foreign debts, including debts to U.S. banks, is particularly poignant.

So internally the State Department fought subsidies. It was right — and is lost. Mr. Dole, unencumbered on this issue by either memory or breadth of vision, powered straight ahead, and the White House buckled. The solution was a compromise, an effort to support and buy off the farm-state Republicans as cheaply as possible. It went too far, even so. You actually don't need to reach the issue of what our posture should be toward the Soviet Union. Farm export subsidies of the kind in question here are poor policy, no matter whom they go to.

The farm problem is familiar. Grain and other staple prices on the strength of which decisions are made to grow and buy are set partly by the government. In recent years they have been set too high. Too much has been grown, and world buyers have turned to other countries, whose prices have been lower.

The way to correct this is to lower government supports. Last year's farm bill started to do this, but slowly; the farm-state senators and congressmen who wrote it were reluctant to squeeze constituents too hard. Export subsidies are an effort to skip the pain by shifting more burden from farmers to taxpayers. The government lifts the price to farmers, then cuts it to foreign buyers; it pays double, but the fundamentals are untouched. Competitors are led to retaliate; you can drain the Treasury just to stand still.

But in Congress just now, in Bob Dole's Senate particularly, this doesn't matter. They're not selling wheat up there; they're buying votes, and trampling the better instincts of their own administration in the process.

### The Biggest Debtor

LIKE MEXICO AND BRAZIL, the United States is now an international debtor on a large scale. Mexico and Brazil each owes around \$100 billion. Here in the United States, foreign investments now outweigh American investments abroad by about \$170 billion, and that figure is probably rising at a rate of about \$125 billion a year.

There are important differences between the Latin debts and the United States' Mexico and Brazil owe the money chiefly to commercial banks. The foreign funds were mostly sent to this country by people who wanted their money in American banks for safekeeping. But the economic effect is the same. Just as the Latin have to pay interest on their foreign debts, so must the Americans. While the burden is lighter here, in proportion to the size of the economy, it is already beginning to be large enough to affect the country's prosperity.

It's the first time since before World War I that the United States has been a debtor. For 70 years it was a creditor, piling up investments abroad faster than foreigners invested here with the net balance reaching a peak of \$142 billion in 1981. That's all gone now, and the accounts have swung heavily in the other direction. The Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis has published a detailed accounting of the country's investment position in 1986, and the figures are, in a gloomy way, instructive. Not much of the foreign money is being used to buy businesses in this country, or to start new ones. Most of it is going into the market, from which it could be withdrawn very quickly if its owners ever decided that the prospect was better somewhere else. It is very volatile money.

Nearly half of it last year came from Western Europe. Another fourth came from Japan. Nearly a fourth came from Latin America, nearly all of it apparently tucked into bank deposits.

Most of the debtor countries, in the past several years, have gone through wrenching programs of adjustment to get their foreign accounts under control. The exception is the United States, which does not really look on its debts as debts since, after all, those people sent their money here voluntarily. But the same thing could be said of the banks that sent their money to Mexico.

There's nothing wrong in principle with borrowing — if the money is used well. Mexico got itself into trouble by borrowing and using the money disproportionately for consumption. Now it is going to try to rescue itself by borrowing more, this time to strengthen its industry. Here in the United States, with business investment falling, the foreign money is mainly supporting consumption and an unearned standard of living — which is very pleasant, as long as the foreign lenders keep lending.

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## Jet Stream Blamed For Drought

By Boyce Rensberger

THE great drought of 1986, the worst in the Southeast in at least the 115 years that government meteorologists have been keeping records, can be blamed on the jet stream and the odd way it was behaving late last winter and early this spring, according to climatologists at the National Weather Service.

While many people in the Southeast were enjoying a mild winter and a balmy spring, the jet stream, which should have been steering rain and snowstorms into the region, had already retreated up toward the Canadian border, giving the precipitation to the Midwest and New England.

The jet stream, a permanent high-altitude wind encircling the Earth in a generally west-to-east direction, normally drifts northward during spring, leaving behind soil wet enough to turn the grass green and get the crops off to a strong start. Through most of the summer the Southeast lives off the wet soil, helped by the occasional summer evening storm. Most of those storms, however, have disappeared — another casualty of the wayward jet stream.

"Droughts will occur for their own reasons, but when you get one like this — one that's definitely in the record books already — you start to look at other factors: long-range cycles that could mean we're in for droughts recurring year after year," said Murray Mitchell, a research climatologist who recently retired from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Mitchell said there is evidence that the current drought may be part of a 22-year climatic cycle linked to the behavior of the sun's magnetic field. The last major dry spell in the Southeast occurred during the mid-1960s.

The 22-year drought cycle has been well established for the western United States, going as far back as 1800. Mitchell was one of the scientists who discovered this cycle by studying the growth rings of very old trees. During droughts, trees grow slowly and have narrower rings.

Tree ring studies in the East have not been completed. However, Mitchell said, climatologists have noticed a general "sawtooth pattern" in which the western droughts coincide with wet spells in the East and vice versa. Most of the United States was of the Mississippi is currently enjoying normal or unusually wet weather.

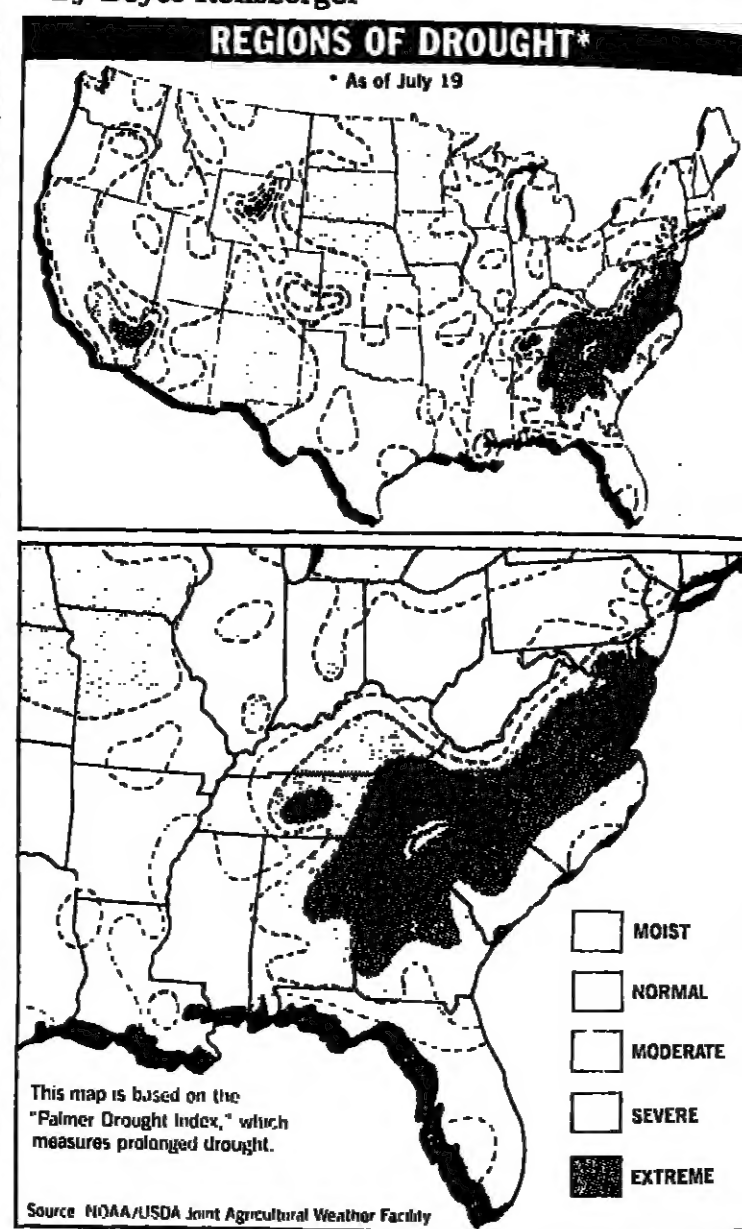
Mitchell emphasized that although droughts can occur for various non-cyclic reasons, the 22-year solar magnetic cycle seems to increase the likelihood of droughts and worsen droughts that begin for other reasons.

No one knows how the solar cycle affects Earth's climate. "That's one of the great mysteries," Mitchell said. "But when you look at the data going back over the centuries, it pops right out at you: The cycle is real."

The sawtooth pattern is a consequence of the jet stream. Although the jetstream is often depicted as a tightly constricted current of air, it is actually a diffuse wind, the core of the prevailing westerlies. At its center, winds blow about 100 mph in summer and up to about 200 mph in winter, usually between five and seven miles above the ground.

The jet stream is a natural consequence of hotter air at the equator and colder air at the poles. Warm equatorial air rises, flows northward (in the southern hemisphere it flows southward), cools over the North Pole and sinks back to the ground to flow south, completing the circuit.

If the Earth did not spin, winds near ground level would tend



always to blow from the north. The Earth's spinning, however, imparts a sideways motion that, at the core, is the jet stream.

During late winter the jet stream, or at least its subtropical branch, normally cuts across Mexico and picks up moisture over the Gulf of Mexico, said James Wagner, a climate analyst for the National Weather Service. It carries the clouds in a northeastward direction, across the Southeast and over the Atlantic around Cape Hatteras.

"As spring moves up from the South, it pushes the jet stream northward," Wagner said. "By May it's running from east Texas to up along the Ohio Valley. As it moves to the north, it's bringing the rain farther and farther north."

In a normal year the humid spring of Georgia becomes the humid summer of Washington. Most of the soil moisture on which farmers rely in the Southeast is an endowment deposited as the jet stream migrates northward over the region.

"This is the main source of the water we have to live on for the summer," Wagner said. "Once the jet stream is up north, the summer rains we get are mostly a result of evaporation that forms thunderheads in the late afternoon." In other words, summer rains are largely a recycling of the same water brought in by the jet stream. The water evaporates from the soil and from plant leaves, from rivers and lakes, and forms clouds that drop the water down again not far away. Summer storms, however, usually return less water to the soil than was lost through evaporation. As evaporation draws on the original endowment, only part of the water is reinvested in the soil. As summer wears on, the balance dwindles. Normally the

effects don't show in the grass or on the crops until late August, when the crops are mature.

This year, however, the lack of a substantial endowment from the jet stream has meant that there is little water that can evaporate back into the air. As a result, summer rains have been unusually sparse and spotty. July's water balance is down to where, in a normal year, it would be in late August or early September.

The lack of evaporation also has meant hotter air temperatures. Normally some of the sun's energy is absorbed by water molecules, turning them from liquid to vapor. With evaporation rates so low, more of the solar energy simply goes into heating the soil and air.

Still, there is enough evaporation to keep the air humid. Normally this warm, humid air would rise until a cooler upper atmosphere condensed the water vapor back into rain. This summer the upper atmosphere has been too warm to condense much water. The water vapor remains muggy water vapor.

With summer's usual source of rain gone, Wagner said, the drought is not likely to break until the fall hurricane season begins. Most fall rains come from tropical storms that form in the Caribbean and move over the Southeast. Most don't become hurricanes, but they can bring heavy rains.

"We won't really know whether we're in a long-term drought until we see what happens next year or the year after," said Mitchell. "If you want to worry, though, there's some evidence to support you."

Officials have estimated the agricultural losses from the drought at up to \$1.9 billion. And Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng approved disaster relief for 89 counties in North Carolina.

## Savimbi Gives Details Of South African Military Aid

By Patrick E. Tyler



Jonas Savimbi

LIKUA, ANGOLA — Guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi now acknowledges his serious miscalculation last year when he predicted that the Angolan government's dry season offensive would hit in the country's eastern panhandle.

The fighting was indeed fierce there during August and into September. Modern Soviet T-82 tanks were ripping apart Savimbi's lightly armed battalions. But during the pitch of the battle, Savimbi got word that the government had opened up a second, larger front in the south.

In a matter of hours, it became apparent to Savimbi that he was the victim of a clever battlefield feint that had left his strongest assault force 350 miles out of position. It would take more than a week to move reinforcements south by truck. So Savimbi did the only thing he felt he could do: he called in the South African military.

At a bush-country hideaway near this large logistical base on the Luengue River, Savimbi discussed in detail, and explained for the first time publicly, South Africa's deep involvement in countering last year's government offensive. Were it not for South Africa's intervention, many military experts have said the offensive might have succeeded in overrunning Savimbi's forces and effectively crushing UNITA.

It became the battle for Mavinga, whose large airstrip would give the Angolan government the springboard it needed to deal a final, crushing blow to Savimbi: a southern air base from which to fly Soviet-made fighters and bombers against UNITA's largest fortresses here and at Jamba.

"When we understood the major thrust was at Mavinga, it was too late," Savimbi said. "So we had to ask the South Africans to take 2,000 troops in four days and four nights from (the eastern panhandle) and put them here (outside Mavinga). Then we said, 'Give us mortars, ammo and cannons of every quality,' and they gave it."

To fly those reinforcements, the South African Air Force put at risk its American-made C-130 Hercules transports, Savimbi said. The South African pilots flew more than 1,000 miles round-trip through Angolan air space to complete the airlift. "It was a major effort," he said. "A Hercules can take a battalion with its support weapons and in a few hours put you where you want to be."

Savimbi denied allegations made from Luanda that South African infantry units and jet fighters carried out support missions for UNITA during the central government's offensive last year. "The South Africans are —

how can I put it — committed, you can say so," Savimbi said. "But the South Africans have their own problems and we think they will place their priorities on their own situation at home first, second in Namibia and third in Angola."

"If they are not against the wall, I think they will do all they can to continue to support UNITA — because I have no doubt in my mind that the South Africans see that if UNITA is crippled — or let us take the extreme: wiped out — it will have a very negative impact on southern Africa."

South Africa has always claimed a stake in the Angolan civil war, because it sees itself as the regional bulwark against spreading Soviet influence in southern Africa and would like also to undermine Angola's support for black nationalists, seeking the independence of Namibia and to overthrow Pretoria's white rule.

Should this year's offensive put Savimbi's back to the wall, the rebel leader said he does not believe that he can count on South Africa's airlift capability again, or any other form of air support. "The South Africans will not sacrifice their air power to save UNITA for the simple fact that they now see that (the Angolan government) has improved tremendously their ability of detecting the planes and interfering with them."

His intelligence showed that Soviet and Cuban technicians have helped the Luanda government set up a radar network and SAM missile sites in strategic locations across the southern and central portion of the country. Due to this threat, Savimbi said, "I don't think the South Africans are in any mood to intervene massively with air power. They think that they may risk their own Mirages, which are not the most modern Mirages." The Soviet MIG-23s now in use by the Angolan air force were supplied to the aging South-African Mirages.

At the moment, Savimbi is carefully managing his still-burgeoning relationship with the United States. The morale and propaganda boost UNITA has taken from his successful trip to Washington last winter is everywhere in evidence in his camps. White House photos of Savimbi sitting with President Reagan in the Oval Office have been plastered on tree trunks with masking tape.

In case anyone misses these photos, Savimbi has had a 30-foot-

high reproduction made on a hand-painted banner for use in political rallies. Other tree-trunk photos show Savimbi with Secretary of State George F. Shultz and his predecessor, Alexander M. Haig Jr.

The nature of U.S. support for Savimbi still makes it awkward for him to discuss it. He will not say directly that he has received U.S. Stinger anti-aircraft missiles from the Pentagon and Central Intelligence Agency, but he cannot suppress the obvious pride he feels to have received this prestigious level of support.

"The president has promised us support and we got that support... and it was delivered as quickly as was possible," Savimbi said. "We asked him to give us something effective against the air (power) and against the (tank) armor and... we got what we asked for. And if there are Stingers or not Stingers, that's sensitive to me for the simple reason that I don't want the (Angolan government) and the Russians to know what I have."

Intelligence sources in Washington, however, have indicated that the Reagan administration remains embarrassed at its decision to arm Savimbi with Stingers lent to the press. The administration had impressed upon Savimbi the need to keep this CIA assistance covert to avoid further diplomatic turbulence.

The CIA training of Savimbi's forces on Stingers and U.S. Light Antitank Weapons (LAWs) is said by sources to be taking place at a secure encampment where reporters are not allowed during visits to UNITA territory.

Savimbi said the new U.S. weapons are not yet "engaged in the battle," and indicated that they were being deployed to counter any attempted air strikes against the largest of UNITA's bases here and at Jamba.

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# The Man Who Cooked Wellington's Beef And Potatoes

By David Howarth

**YOUR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT.**  
By James Thornton, Cook to the Duke of Wellington. Salem House. 120pp. \$9.95.

ONCE in a while a tremor of genteel excitement passes among historians, when one of them discovers a document never heard of before. This is the latest, and an oddity among historical documents, the story of the Duke of Wellington's cook.

Loyal cooks or butlers do not write reminiscences. History might be more amusing if they did. But this one was told to do it. His name was James Thornton. As Wellington's cook he had followed his master through most of the Peninsular War and the whole of the Waterloo campaign. Thirty years later, he became cook to Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, one of the numerous bastard sons of the Duke of Clarence, who became King William IV; and Lord Frederick wrote out a questionnaire, nearly 100 questions, and told Thornton to answer them. It is the manuscript of those questions and answers, beautifully written but forgotten ever since, that has now been found in the traditionally dusty shelves of an antiquarian bookstore.

With that origin, one cannot look for

back-stairs gossip or scandal. Lord Frederick's worthy idea was that "everything concerning the habits and customs of the great Hero would be interesting to the world, particularly to Military men." From that rather limited point of view, he chose his questions well. A hundred and thirty years later, his questionnaire has made a slender but oddly fascinating little book, full of answers to questions that standard history does not think of asking. For example: when the army was advancing, how did the C-in-C's butler and cook and their assistants avoid getting captured, yet always arrive ahead of him at the next headquarters town and have dinner cooked and the table laid for himself and the dozen staff officers who usually dined with him? Thornton makes it sound easy. The Quartermaster told him what town had been chosen, and he loaded himself and his kitchen equipment on 80 mules, and "found his way in the best manner I could." "I had a good mule," he added, as if that explained everything, "always the same except when he fell lame."

Readers who do not know the history of the Peninsular War will be very glad of Lady Longford's introduction, which takes up almost half the book. She does know more about that history than anyone else, and more about the Duke of Wellington, too,

and she writes about him and the "gilded" young officers of his staff with easy intimacy, as if it had been a family party and she is a member of the family. She is surprised, and so am I, that Lord Frederick seldom asked about the actual food that Thornton cooked. I am sure she is right in thinking that Wellington's usual dinners were so dull that there is nothing to be said about them: "Beef, mutton, potatoes; potatoes, mutton, beef." The Duke was known for his Spartan tastes — and after all, that is what most English gentlemen would have chosen to eat in that era: "none of your foreign fads," they would have said.

In the Waterloo campaign there was a wider choice of exotic food, and the Duke gave more frequent and elegant balls and dinners. There was also a much wider choice of expert Belgian chefs. But Thornton was greatly annoyed by a story that the Duke had a Belgian cook. He alone, he insisted, had done all the Duke's cooking, including the tragic midnight dinner after the battle of Waterloo itself, where so many of Wellington's men had perished.

I have always been astonished by the Duke's physical fitness, especially — being no horseman, myself — by the distances he habitually covered on horseback. After the Duchess of Richmond's famous ball in Brussels, he had two hours' sleep, then

started at six in the morning to ride to Quatre Bras, then to Ligny where the Prussians were fighting Napoleon's right wing, back to Quatre Bras, then in a fighting retreat back to Waterloo — a good 60 or 60 miles. Then another night with two hours' sleep, the battle of a lifetime and 18 hours more in the saddle, and all on the same horse. Now I learn that he "never took any refreshments with him, when he mounted his horse, except a crust of bread and perhaps a hard boiled egg in his pocket."

At half past midnight after the battle, he rode back to his headquarters in the village of Waterloo, and there was the faithful Thornton waiting with a hot dinner ready. It had been ready for the past 12 hours, but Lord Frederick did not ask him how he had kept it hot. And he had laid the table as usual for a dozen staff officers. But that night the Duke came in alone and ate in miserable silence and glanced up whenever the door was opened, as if he hoped to see at least one more of his staff alive. Then he lay down on a pallet on the floor to sleep because one of his aides was dying on his bed.

David Howarth is the author of "Waterloo Day of Battle" and many other narrative histories.

## The Way We Think We Were

**THE PAST IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY.**  
By David Lowenthal. Cambridge University Press. 489pp. \$27.95.

By Peter Laslett

WHEN I WAS teaching for a month or two at Yale, every inch the visiting British Mascot, I made a casual remark which suddenly got me into hot water. "You Americans," I said, "have a vivid sense of the past than we do. History really matters to you. It doesn't matter at all that much to me." It was hastily decided, when the shock died down, that I only thought I had less of a sense of the past than my hosts. In fact I took my British past so much for granted that I was quite unconscious of it — which was what they liked about the Brits.

It is certainly open to me all these years later to cite the present book on my side of the argument. Here is an American, though interestingly enough an American who seems now to live and work in Britain, rolling over 450 annotated, illustrated, elaborated pages on the past. Everything distinguishable about the past is here. How we know it, if indeed we know it at all. What it means to us, and how we lose a sense of meaning if we have no access to it. If we can escape it, and the consequences of doing so. Or is it, as Herbert Butterfield put

it — Butterfield who is so much an influence it would seem on Lowenthal — that the past is coiled up inside ourselves like our entrails? Carried everywhere and crucial to our well-being, that is to say, but never more comfortably carried than when we can forget about them altogether.

This is the point made to me at Yale all over again, but it still does not speak to my position then. What strikes me about Americans is that the events, the outcomes of the past are part and parcel of their citizenship in their country, of being Americans. It appears to matter enormously to every voter, every person, in the whole of the U.S.A., that Abraham Lincoln and the North won the Civil War. It is the same with the events in which the Founding Fathers were caught up, and the beliefs and attitudes which they shared and handed down. But nothing, absolutely nothing, in British history weighs like this, at least on me.

I don't care a fig that it was Cromwell and his Roundheads who won the Civil War in the 17th century, because nothing whatever in my present life depends upon it. Magna Carta means even less to me, and is not to be mentioned in the same breath as the American Constitution, because its importance to British Liberty, a faded phrase in any case, is a fiction rather than a fact. The Norman Conquest took place so long ago that it can't possibly count in my experience, even though faint and far-off echoes

whisper at me now that the Channel Tunnel is really going to happen.

David Lowenthal is splendid on the Founding Fathers and their doctrines, and how difficult it was for their followers, since a legacy of revolution cannot itself be revolted against. Another tiny trace element of the 1980s here — for this is just the situation of those who write in *Samizdat* in Eastern Europe, wearied to the aching of the bones with the pressure on them of revolutionist doctrines. How can they raise a banner of revolution against *The Revolution*?

The past seems to stand to David Lowenthal as his own loved subject stood to Robert Burton when he wrote and rewrote, chiselled, polished and complicated his *Anatomy of Melancholy* and finally published it in 1621. This was an even hotter, academic volume and one which could so transfix his devotees that it was the only book which Samuel Johnson the stayabed got up early in order to go on reading. There is the same fascination with mystery and paradox, that the past should be so entirely inaccessible and yet so close and compelling, so continually echoing back the still, and music of humanity, yet so marvelously pleasurable. Because of nostalgia.

This book is splendid on nostalgia, too, and marvelous on those little bits and pieces from the vanished past which serve to legitimate and celebrate. Best of all to my mind, in an amazing array of illustrations,

is the tacked-up timber Grecian pediment presiding over the shack which houses a branch of the Security Marine Bank of Madison, Wisconsin. It is, as you will see, a book which you will enjoy, if you know that the past attracts you, or if you think you are immune to its power or its spell, as those colleagues of mine in New Haven thought I thought I was.

Perhaps indeed it is the working social historian, or historical sociologist as we heavily name him now, who will appreciate this *tour de force* the most. What weighs on me as I go about the highly professional business of getting to know previous states of the society I inhabit are the loves and the hatreds, the aims and the successes, the disappointments and the beliefs of our predecessors. I yearn to do them justice, every single one of them who swim into my little shaft of vision. And I recognize all the time that I am faced with the impossible, with the entirely infinite extent and complication of human life.

David Lowenthal does not seem to feel as much like this. It does not appear to be past people, fellow citizens of the human polity, who speak to him, but rather what they did and how it still affects him. Because he is an American?

Peter Laslett, a fellow of Trinity College and director of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, is the author of "The Past We Have Lost."

## The 'Good' Book With Every Form Of Depravity

By Haynes Johnson

WASHINGTON — At the time of the Scopes trial on banning the teaching of evolution in the state of Tennessee, the Georgia Legislature debated a bill establishing public libraries. It would have allowed counties, school districts and municipalities to establish and maintain public libraries either by taxation or by donations.

A representative of a rural county arose to deliver a speech in opposition to the bill. There were only three books in the world worth reading, he proclaimed. These were the Bible, the Christian hymnbook and the almanac.

"These three are enough for anyone," Hal Wimberly told his fellow lawmakers. "Read the Bible. It teaches you how to act. Read the hymnbook. It contains the finest poetry ever written. Read the almanac. It shows you how to figure out what the weather will be. There isn't another book that is necessary for anyone to read, and therefore I am opposed to all

libraries."

The bill had come to the floor for debate after a committee recommended passage. When the final votes were taken, Rep. Wimberly's library bill was defeated, 69 to 57.

This led the irrepressibly wicked H.L. Mencken to reprint an Atlanta wire service story about the incident in his *American Mercury* magazine. And when he published it in his collection, "Americana 1925," Mencken was moved to attach this headline:

"Progress of fundamentalism in bucolic Georgia, as revealed by a press dispatch from the state capital."

Leave it to the modern-day fundamentalists to demonstrate that that almost unbelievable occurrence 61 years ago is not an impossible anachronism in the America of the mid-1980s. Today's electronic evangelists are doing it again, and with about the same

subtlety. They are writing a new chapter in the shameful story of book-banning — and they're doing so with the same bullying techniques of the past.

The most notable recent example, and by no means the only one, involves the Rev. Jimmy Swaggart, an energetic half-American and brimstone television preacher based in Baton Rouge, La., whose exhortations are seen on TV screens in homes across the country.

On June 1, during one of his nationally televised sermons, Swaggart denounced the sale of rock music magazines in apocalyptic terms for encouraging immoral behavior among America's teenagers. Such magazines were inspired by the devil, he said, linking them to the wave of pornography supposedly endangering the moral fabric of the republic. He specified at least one magazine and warned that it could "be bought by chil-

dren of all ages at places like Wal-Mart, K mart, the grocery store and practically any other retail store that sells magazines."

Twelve days after that broadcast, Wal-Mart issued a memorandum ordering all rock-oriented publications banned from its stores. In its instructions to wholesalers, Wal-Mart named 32 such publications, including the well-known magazine *Rolling Stone*, and ordered the wholesalers to remove "any other rock titles you may be placing in Wal-Mart stores."

Wal-Mart is not some little business. It is a department store chain with 890 outlets in 22 states, primarily in the South and Southwest. Although a Wal-Mart spokesman characterized its action as "strictly a merchandising decision" when interviewed by Richard Harrington of *The Washington Post*, there seems no doubt about the connection between Swaggart's nationally broadcast sermon and

the banning of the publications. Harrington also quoted the spokesman as saying, "We don't see it as a censorship issue; we see it as a free enterprise issue."

It is, of course, both. Wal-Mart has a right to sell what it wishes, within the boundaries of the law, and the public has a right to condemn its withdrawal decision as the worst sort of caving in to pressure from book-banners and bigots.

By peculiar coincidence, even as this newest censorship battle flares, the fundamentalists and public school educators are again locked in legal battle in Tennessee over whether textbooks fail to reflect stories in the Bible literally. How Mencken would have relished it. By all means ban those books describing immoral acts. And start with the volume that recounts murder, rape, sodomy, incest and every other form of human depravity and barbarity, the Bible.



Silbury Hill, Wiltshire.

## Birthday at Lammas-tide

"THE largest artificial mound in Europe" is the definition given by *The Guinness Book of Records* to Silbury Hill, the site of which occupies 5½ acres in my home county, Wiltshire. Lying just over a mile south of the gigantic stone circle of Avebury, Silbury is an earthen cone or pyramid, 130 feet high, the making of which involved moving 670,000 tons of chalk, a task which required an estimated 18 million hours of work by men using antler picks. Presented with these formidable facts, our obvious reaction is to ask, Why?

Many attempts have been made to find the answer. On the grounds that it resembles a giant round barrow, a popular theory has been that it is a burial mound. Local lore claims that it was raised over the grave of a King Sil, who was buried there, sitting on his horse and surrounded by vast treasure. So from 1776 onwards a series of excavators have probed Silbury, sinking shafts from top to bottom and driving tunnels into the very centre of the hill.

The most comprehensive investigation of all was conducted by Professor Richard Atkinson and the BBC in 1968 and 1969. Months of patient work, in full view of television cameras, failed to reveal King Sil in his golden armour or any other burial. Summarising the dig, Professor Atkinson wrote, "No trace of any structure, deposit or ancient disturbance was found in the small area near the centre which had not previously been disturbed."

Evidently Silbury was not a burial mound, but the question remained, "What, then, was it?"

Recently I have been browsing through a book, published in 1976 but which I have previously missed seeing, entitled *The Silbury Treasure*, by author Michael Dames, who is convinced he knows the answer. The hill is, he says, the Mother Goddess herself, of primitive religion.

Our ancestors in those far-off days had no notions of false modesty. The earth, they knew, produced the crops which kept them alive; women produced the children which ensured the continuity of the tribe; so the existence of an Earth Mother or Goddess was a logical inference.

The essential function of a mother is to give birth, so it seemed sensible to them to depict the goddess as a heavily pregnant woman, about to give birth. And that, says Mr Dames, is exactly what Silbury is. It is a huge, three-dimensional goddess in a squatting posture, and it quotes numerous examples of similar representations of the Earth Goddess from different cultures.

Nothing is ever simple, of course, and he believes that the

ground plan at Silbury, as well as the hill itself, also represents a woman on the point of giving birth. Her form is outlined by the water which surrounds the hill. But there is even more to it than that. If, at the appropriate time, you stand on the terrace which surrounds the top of the hill you can witness the birth of the child which the goddess is bearing!

The sequence of events is as follows. At 7.35pm the sun sets. At 8pm the moon rises. The moon is the "baby". After its birth at 8pm, you can see it in various positions with relation to its mother, such as lying on her knee, until at ten minutes past midnight it reaches its maximum altitude. That, according to Mr Dames, was the

By Ralph Whitlock

moment for cutting the umbilical cord and probably for the ceremonial cutting of the first stalks of corn, which he thinks were probably growing in a sacred patch on top of the hill. It was, in fact, the signal for the beginning of harvest.

And what was this all-important date? Why, Lammas-tide. Nowadays Lammas falls on August 8, but to fit in with the less precise calendar of primitive man a margin of a week or two on either side has to be allowed. The key factor is that the festival was observed when the full moon rose within half-an-hour of so of sunset. And that occurs approximately midway between Midsummer and the autumnal equinox.

As I read this conjectural account of the origin and significance of Silbury all that I know about Lammas seemed to fall into place. At times, when speaking at Harvest Homes and Harvest Festivals, I have deplored the abolition of old-style August Bank Holiday, which fell on the first weekend of August. Though in its latter days it was simply a convenient date for a holiday, it did serve to perpetuate the ancient festival of Lammas, the traditional date for the gathering of first-fruits and so the beginning of harvest.

In Christian centuries the wheat grains from the first harvest field were quickly ground into flour and made into bread, in the form of little loaves. These were brought to church and presented to the priest at the altar. The celebration was called "Loaf-mass", hence Lammas.

Six weeks or so later, at the end of harvest, the last stalks of corn were carefully cut and fashioned into a Corn Dolly or Kerna Baby. Though straw-weaving now is a popular craft with Women's Institutes and other village organisations, the Corn Dolly was much of it rust-encased debris

giving life to the seed for the next harvest. That is why, after the winter solstice, she was gently laid in a furrow and buried by good soil. And originally she was fashioned from the corn cut at Lammas, not at the harvest's end.

The story of Silbury begins so very long ago. According to the latest estimates it is dated at 2745 BC, give or take about 200 years either way. But a few Lammas customs still linger, while others were abandoned within living memory. Some are concerned with tithes and the payment of rents; others with sheep fairs; others with festivities on hill tops.

In Orkney "Lammas brothers and sisters" were couples who attended Kirkwall Lammas Fair and for that period behaved as though they were married. Many people used to hold a somewhat scandalous celebration on the top of Snaefell at Lammas-tide, until, it is said, a Methodist preacher put an effective stop to it by passing round a collection bag!

I have never stood on top of the Silbury Hill at the rising of the Lammas-tide full moon, and now I suppose increasing years make it unlikely that I ever shall. As with seeing the Midsummer sunrise at Stonehenge, you need a clear sky. But I am assured that, when conditions are right, you can still witness the Earth Mother giving birth to the moon, as she did to the satisfaction of those neolithic people who shifted all those tons of chalk and soil in her honour, nearly five thousand years ago.

## A Titanic myth laid to rest

By Mark Tran in Washington

Earlier, Dr Ballard tested an unmanned robot which provided video footage of the wreck. The pictures showed rivers of rust covering the hull of the ship.

Brass, ceramic and copper objects, such as portholes, saucepans and kettles faro better in the depths and still retain their polish, but all the elaborate woodwork is gone. What mostly remains is the caulking between the planks, or a spongy mass filled with bore holes. The Titanic's woodwork was eaten away by wood-boring molluscs which have festooned the liner with skeletons in the million.

A three-man crew aboard the Alvin deep submergence vehicle spent 33 hours last month exploring the wreck, which is broken in two. The robot was attached to the front of Alvin to be manoeuvred into areas inaccessible to the bigger craft.

The crew found the bow of the ship much easier to explore than the "rat's nest" of cables and debris at the stern over 500 feet away.

He returned last week from a 22-day trip to photograph in detail its hull, split into two main sections, much of it rust-encased debris.

## Finders keepers

By Joe Joyce in Dublin

AN EARLY Christian silver chalice and other artefacts valued at up to £8 million should be returned by the Irish National Museum to the father and son who found them, the High Court in Dublin ruled last week.

The decision has caused consternation among archaeologists, who fear an invasion of ancient monastic sites by treasure hunters with metal detectors trying to emulate an English businessman, Mr Michael Webb, who with his son, Michael, found the hoard in a County Tipperary bog six years ago.

Dr Brendan O'Riordan, the director of the Irish National Museum, said: "We're very concerned about that aspect of the situation." He added that he would be advising the Irish government to appeal to the Supreme Court against the judgment.

Mr Webb and his son had sued the Irish authorities for the return of the artefacts, known as the Derrynaflan Hoard, after the place where they were found.

The collection consists of an 8th century silver chalice, patten and stand, and a bronze strainer and bowl. It has been described as one of the most important ever uncovered in Ireland.

The Webbs found them with the aid of a metal detector close to the ruin of a 6th century monastic settlement. They refused the offer of a £10,000 reward, but the two owners of the land on which they

were found accepted £25,000 each. Mr Webb, of Clonmel, County Tipperary, said that he was absolutely delighted with the court decision. He added: "It was not totally unexpected. Honestly finally pays off, I think."

The original discovery prompted fears among archaeologists of unauthorised excavations which have been exacerbated by the judgment after an eight-day hearing earlier last month. The use of metal detectors is not forbidden, but it is illegal to dig for buried objects without a licence to excavate.

During the hearing, evidence was given by a Sotheby's expert that the market value of the collection was between £5 million and £8 million. But Dr Michael Ryan, the Keeper of Irish Antiquities, valued it at between £2.5 million and £3 million.

Dr O'Riordan said the judgment had thrown into doubt the whole question of treasure trove, under which gold and silver objects which had obviously been hidden by their owners were taken to belong to the monarch or the state. But the court decided that this custom had not been enshrined in Irish law.

Mr Justice John Blaney decided, however, that the value of the objects had been enhanced by restoration work and that he would hear evidence in the autumn about the value of that work. Some of the restoration was done by the British Museum.



The 8th century silver chalice.



## The new man at the National Gallery

By Maev Kennedy

MR NEIL MACGREGOR was "delighted but surprised" to find himself being unveiled last week as the National Gallery's new director.

At the press conference, the editor of the fine arts journal, the Burlington Magazine, who has never worked a day in any sort of gallery, was left in peace for some time, hands folded and licking his lips nervously, while the chairman of his new board of trustees, Mr Jacob Rothschild, dealt with a barrage of questions about the man — or men — who did not get the job.

Turning the discussion away from a favoured contender, Mr Ted Pillbury, the director of Fort Worth's Kimbell Art Museum, Mr Rothschild said Mr MacGregor, who is 40, had quite exceptional qualities. And Sir Michael Levey, who remains in the job himself until next January, added that it was not unprecedented for an outsider to be appointed to such a job. The trustees' original choice was Mr Pillbury but he backed out at the last moment.

Invited to speak for himself, Mr MacGregor declared his ability to stand up to the board of trustees — his position would be no different from his predecessor's, he said, and Sir Michael smiled reassuringly — and was then immediately asked how he felt about being the second best man for the job.

"He'll answer that in a minute," Mr Rothschild cut in.

When he was allowed to speak for himself, Mr MacGregor proved to have the soft answer to turn away wrath.

Mr Pillbury, who withdrew from the running, was a good friend of his, he said, and they had often spoken together about the gallery. "Nobody interested in museums could mind being runner up to Dr Pillbury."

What changes would he like to make? "The main thing I would like to change is to continue the changes that are under way," Mr MacGregor replied.

Many of the physical changes would be dictated by the new



Mr Neil MacGregor

building, he said reasonably, and much of the buying policy would depend on what came on the market. And he wanted to bring out the educational aspect of the gallery more.

Both Mr Rothschild and Sir Michael had already stressed that much of the job was about consultation and co-ordination, and Mr MacGregor agreed. And he thought it would be nice to have some more 19th-century pictures.

About just two things, without pausing for an instant to allow his mentors to answer for him, he was quite definite. The gallery was not going modern, he insisted, and 1910 seemed to him "as sensible a distinction as any other".

And he was quite clear on admission charges. He could see that "circumstances might arise that would cause one to reconsider" — many of the trustees, including Mr Rothschild, are believed to favour admission charges — but he believed the collection belonged to the nation, and nothing should impede the nation's access.

"I am totally opposed to admission charges — as I have written on countless occasions in the Burlington Magazine." And the gallery's newest exhibit was swept away to be photographed and catalogued.

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## Forty years of bomb and bikini

A FEW short months after Hiroshima, MGM launched the career of the starlet Linda Christian as the Atomic Bomb. Eighteen days after the first post-war atom bomb test at Bikini Atoll on June 30, 1946, Linda Reard registered the name for the smallest piece of swimwear this side of total nudity. The bomb itself had a picture of Rita Hayworth stencilled on it. The world had discovered a new metaphor for sexual arousal.

Much has been written about the nuclear bomb, about nuclear winter and civil defence, megatonnage and defensive postures, but, as Paul Boyer reminds us, there have been few assessments of the bomb's effects on culture and consciousness. "We have somehow managed to avert our attention from the pervasive impact of the bomb on this dimension of our collective experience."

Boyer, a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, in his book *The Bomb's Early Light* (Pantheon, New York) has surveyed this hidden impact and discovered that all the major elements of our contemporary engagement with the nuclear reality took shape, at least in America, within the first five years of the nuclear era.

Within hours of the announcement the Washington Press Club was offering an "Atomic Cocktail." Within days a New York Fifth Avenue store was offering Atomic Jewellery. By 1947 the Manhattan telephone directory listed 45 businesses that had incorporated the magic word, including the Atomic Undergarment Company. A cereal company was even offering genuine "Atomic Bomb" rings for 16 cents and a boxtop.

The bomb triggered the most bizarre period in country music history. Many of the songs featured on the soundtrack of Atomic Cafe come from this time. Songs like Atomic Power, written by Fred Kirby, a veteran radio cowboy singer from North Carolina, on the morning after Hiroshima; Jesus Hitz Like An Atom Bomb by Louis Blanchard with the Valley Trio; When They Drop the Atomic Bomb by Jackie Doll and his Pickled Peppers and Old Man Atom by The Sons of the Pioneers (1947), which features the immortal lines: "So listen folks, for here's my thesis/Peace in the world, or the world in peace."

There was a feeling among writers of the period that, according to Dwight Macdonald, "modern horrors" had undermined not just a particular style but the entire

literary enterprise.

Norman Mailer was to develop the modern horrors theme in his famous essay, *The White Negro*, first published in *Dissent* in 1957, which concerned the birth of "the American existentialist" — the hipster, the man who knows that if our collective condition is to live with instant death by atomic war then the only life-giving answer is to accept the terms of death, to live with death as immediate danger, to divorce oneself from society, to exist without roots, to set out on that uncharted journey into the rebellious imperatives of the self.

James Agee, then a 36-year-old aspiring novelist, screen-writer and movie critic for *Time*, heard news of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and wrote a rough sketch for a movie called *Dedication Day*.

It describes the dedication of a soaring "fused uranium" arch designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

By John May

built in commemoration of the atomic bomb. Beneath the Arch burns the Eternal Fuse, at a constant rate of one inch per second; it is constantly manufactured in a hidden workshop beneath by crippled war veterans and maimed victims of the Bomb.

The question that haunted writers of the period and continues to do so was that if an air raid on one small Spanish town could inspire one of Picasso's greatest canvases (incidentally, still under armed guard), how was one to respond imaginatively to Hiroshima?

Linguistic critic Blossom Grayer Feinstein, writing in the *New Yorker* in 1965, phrased it this way: "Is it possible that in spite of our vast and ever-growing vocabulary we have finally created an object that transcends all possible description?"

In spite of the problems, the literature of the nuclear age kept growing. Nevil Shute's *On The Beach* (1957), Walter Miller's *A Canticle for Leibowitz* (1959), Eugene Burdick and Harvey Wheeler's *Fall Safe* (1962), and Kurt Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle* (1963) all imagined scenarios of nuclear war and human extinction.

But it was a British poet, Jeff Nuttall, who fingered the pulse most closely in his seminal *Bomb Culture*, written in 1967 and published as the first Paladin paperback in 1970.

He wrote: "With the post-Hiro-

shima teenager, disaffiliation was always automatic rather than deliberate."

He believed that, at the point of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the generations became divided in a very crucial way. The people who had passed puberty at that time found that they were incapable of conceiving life without a future; the people who hadn't, were incapable of conceiving life with a future.

Two cultural responses were in evidence during this period. One view, a kind of mystical acceptance, was expressed by Joe Burke as follows: "Let the bombs fall, the biggest bombs, and so a great mandala will unfold, and in an micro moment, all that can be, will be; and all that need be stated, will be stated; and western man will have achieved full and everlasting expression of what no longer need be expressed."

In 1985, I tracked down Jeff Nuttall to the Chelsea Arts Club. He told me: "What one wants from a bomb-conscious artist is an antithesis to the Bomb. One wants gestures and statements and experiences that are going to be able to put before humanity, before the public, before society, a way of thinking which is not part of the internal, competitive, war-power system."

"Maybe the bloody Bomb isn't going to happen. Maybe it is, as I suggested in *Bomb Culture*, just a cultural catalyst which is driving us forward, almost at pistol point, into a consciousness which we have to achieve quickly."

The Bomb is the big bass drum of modern culture, the underlying culture, the underlying anxiety beneath and beyond all the ephemeral outpourings that characterize the posturing 1980s.

As the sociologist Edward Shils has remarked, atomic bombs made a bridge across which apocalyptic fantasies, marching from their refuge among fringe groups, invaded all of society. Whose Apocalyptic is less of a joke when Reagan is President and after Challenger and Chernobyl. As the Physicians Against Nuclear War conference recently put it, nuclear war is an accident waiting to happen.

We would do well to pay attention to the cultural signals. We are all hibakusha — explosion affected people. Bomb Culture is the one style that will never now go out of style.

*The Bikini*, presented by Pedro Siltmon with an introduction by Meriel McCooey, published by Virgin, £9.99.

## Bolshoi's Golden Age

THE Bolshoi Ballet danced The Golden Age for the first time in London last week and had a triumph, despite the fact that the ballet is not looking quite the way it should. Sir John Tooley explained before the late curtain rise that London fire-proofing regulations had affected the scenery agreed to dance, the production would not be up to the standards to which they aspire.

True, Simon Virsaladze's settings, wonderful evocations of the spirit of Soviet Russia in the early 1920s, were not seen to best advantage and the scene changes did not move with the immaculate ease I saw when the Bolshoi was at the Staatsoper in Vienna. The dancers were cramped for space, too, but nothing could diminish the impact of their performances or the marvellous theatrical drive of Yuri Grigorovich's choreography.

Set in a small town on the Crimean coast in 1923, the ballet

is concerned with the triumph of good, in the persons of young fisher-folk, over evil, represented by the decadent frequenters of the nightclub called The Golden Age. The score by Shostakovich is delightful (how beautifully he orchestrates Vincent Youmans's *Tea for Two* into the nightclub scenes).

By Mary Clarke

and Grigorovich has, with the permission of the composer's widow, also incorporated passages from the piano concertos for the love duets, which are the most rapturously elegant he has ever created.

As always, Grigorovich takes the classical vocabulary as his base, but colours it with elements from folk dances (for the fisher-folk) and from social dance. His nightclub scenes, aided by Virsaladze's brilliant costumes and the 1920s make-up and hairstyles, evoke and satirise the whole period.

The dancing, which has been the

greatest joy of a joyful season, was at this first performance simply sensational. The enormous young corps de ballet pour over the stage in the exultant scenes, filling it with slinky social dancers and cabaret artists on the ballroom floor. As the hero in shining white, Irak Mukhamazov performs prodigies of virtuosity that defy description — at the height of a jump he seems to do the splits, performs a corkscrew turn and still descend immaculately — while radiating goodness and inspired leadership.

As his true love, Rita, Natalia Besmertnova, always eloquent in choreography by Grigorovich, dances with mature beauty and authority. As the "nasties" Yashka and Lyuska, Alexei Lazarev and Tatiana Golikova perform with relish, as does Mikhail Tavin as the master of ceremonies. But it's the Bolshoi Ballet itself which takes the final honour. Every tiny cameo role is neatly judged and the ensembles are breathtaking.

THE conventional view of late 19th century Scandinavian art is that it was a period of minor interest which somehow spawned a major artist, Edward Munch.

I imagine that among the main ambitions of the largest selection of turn of the century Scandinavian pictures at the Hayward entitled, rather leadenly, *Dreams Of A Summer Night*, must be counted the determination to challenge this simplistic view and to replace it with a more complex understanding. Munch is taken out of his isolation and given a context, and bedfellows.

Unfortunately this proves a vain-glorious move; modern art history is, I think, vindicated. Munch, it turns out, was an isolated genius surrounded by floods full of mediocrities.

Indeed the exhibition underlines how strongly-felt was Munch's sense of isolation, how necessary it was to his genius. In Munch's art the ordinary world always seems an arm's length away. He alone of the late 19th century Scandinavian painters developed an original vision of life — and of course of death — because he alone was truly alone. The rest had each other.

What a morbid gathering this is of frozen painters from the thawing North. If there is an innocent smile in the gallery I missed it. The favourite mood in landscapes and interiors is a vague feeling of foreboding. Not only is a new century coming but so, it seems, is the bogeyman.

And in His Eyes I Saw Death is the snappy title of a portrait by Denmark's Ejnar Nielsen. A youth with cropped hair and large oval cat's eyes stares out over the spectator's shoulder into the dark beyond of his destiny. Nielsen's other contributions to the show are entitled *The Sick Girl* and *The Blind Girl*.

All over the show Nordic despair comes bubbling out from the art like sulphurous waste from a Finnish geyser. Sweden's Bruno Liljefors watches the mating of some capercaillies. He might as well be watching the last act of Hamlet, the air is so heavy with



Munch's Inger On The Beach.

## A midsummer night's gloom

By Waldemar Januszczak

doom, despair and desire. The Scandinavian art we see here seems to have been viewed through the spooky light of interminable summer evenings. The artists seem permanently frightened by the forest.

Where English art of the same period celebrates the tameness of the English country landscape, these brooding Scandinavians celebrate nature's sublimity.

But how ponderously they do it. Here they are talking about the dislocation of reality, obsessively investigating their troubled fin de siècle psyches, and they do so in salon styles of numbing conformity

and by employing the most banal symbolism.

A naked young boy crouches on his knees and stares into a skull. Painted by Finland's Magnus Enckell he is, of course, staring at his destiny. Theodor Kittelsen of Norway provides a melodramatic horror story called *The Black Death*. A crow arrives at a mountain village at night. But is the crow also the mysterious old woman with a rake whom we see coming across a skeleton by the roadside? And are both of them *The Black Death*?

When they do attempt an innovative marriage between style and

content of the kind so gloriously achieved by Munch, the results are kitsch. Sweden's Ernst Josephson paints the Holy Sacrament in pulsating, pasty-white brushstrokes, bastardised Van Gogh. The result is pure wallpaper. In Jens Ferdinand Willumsen's *After the Tempest*, a mother and child are shown rushing along the beach while the sun goes into lurid super-nova. The resulting colour-scheme would look at home on the cover of a science fiction paperback.

The main antidote to the lurid melodrama of the landscapes and subject pictures is the simple

Scandinavian "Eibakke's Lay The does capture those tau-moods which we know from the plays of Ibsen (who appears towering like a mountain peak in a portrait by Erik Werenskiöld) or the films of Bergman."

Yet even in the pursuit of silence these painters can be crazy, no one more so than Vilhelm Hammershoi, a man they call the Danish Vermeer. Hammershoi never looks a woman in the face. He always views them from the back, their heads bent, peeling potatoes or embroidering a dress in silence. His silence is so staged and loud.

Munch transcends the limitations of the show as freely as Kittelsen's flapping crow. There are, seven Munchs in the exhibition, all excellent. The most telling is *Inger On The Beach*, a portrait of his sister, Inger sits on some beach-side boulders, a hazy sea stretching away ethereally behind her. Like so many of the young women in the show she seems to be lost in thought, a French Lieutenant's Woman yearning for a life of her own.

But where others attempt to spice up her introspection with pictorial gimmickry (empty rooms, ticking clocks, open doors, bare interiors, endless greys), Munch says it all with a simple outline which keeps the figure in and the rest of the world out. Where others give their lonely women a tragic grimace, Munch hints at her sadness but does not delineate it.

Where painter after painter strains to overload their pictures with the seductive melancholy of a summer evening, Munch does it all in his background with a few strokes sketched into the water and the shadow of a fishing boat. Long after the Black Death has passed and all the hobgoblins that frightened the turn of the century Scandinavian artist have slunk back into the forest, the glowing, white of Inger's dress continues to haunt this exhibition like a ghost.

*Dreams Of A Summer Night* at the Hayward Gallery until October 6.

## Harping on at the party

I WELCOME John Dexter's New Theatre Company; it offers a refreshing antidote to the trivial pursuit of most West End theatre. But T. S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*, though directed with brio, makes a strange opening choice. Watching it revived now is like seeing the dust-sheet removed with a great flourish from some heirloom only to discover that it is chipped and mouldy with age.

The most common charge against the play is that drawing-room comedy is not a fit vehicle for the discussion of spiritual malaise; that the result, in Tynan's phrase, is "Pinter on stilts". That seems to me nonsense since, at least from Shaw's time onwards, dramatists have used popular forms to say serious things. What makes it a hard play to like is that Eliot's poetry does not so much enlighten and intensify the dramatic situation as verbally expand it. Even more off-putting to me is the arctic temperament behind the play that implies that marriage, childbirth, human relationships are a compromising second-best to the consolations of pain, martyrdom and sacrifice.

Eliot presents us with a crisis in the lives of three central characters: the unfaithful, mutually re-terminatory married couple Edward and Lavinia Chamberlayne and the former's mistress, Celia Costelloe. The godly psychiatrist, Sir Henry Harcourt-Reilly, pierces through the self-deception of Edward and Lavinia; he makes them see that

his incapacity for love and her unlovability (echoes of *Tom and Viv*) can be fitted together in a geometric pattern and that they can, like most of us insufficient mortals, make the best of a bad job.

But Eliot's spirit is kindled far more by Celia who is weighed down by solitude and a sense of sin, who is despatched by Harcourt-Reilly to join some austere missionary society, and who suffers a famous redemptive crucifixion near an ant-hill.

In 1949 the play was thought to be shrouded in mystery. It seems to me to be unambiguously saying

THEATRE by Michael Billington

that bourgeois social life is an empty illusion, that we all live and die alone, that we never understand our intimates but that the fortunate few are able to atone for their sins through pain. Compared to Eliot, Beckett seems a merry jester in cap-and-bells. But, setting aside Eliot's misanthropy, what makes it an indifferent play is that his verse is less dense with meaning than endlessly circumlocutory; the language is disproportionate to the ideas and feelings it contains and the play is stuffed with re-defining phrases like Celia's "I am not sure, Edward, that I understand you; and yet I understand as I never did before."

Dexter's production partially overcomes this by highlighting Eliot's mordant comedy: the party perilsage at the beginning is wittily underscored, by Stephen

Boxer at the piano. But by casting Alec McCowen as Sir Henry Harcourt-Reilly Dexter also enures that Eliot's advocacy of Christian martyrdom is put across with brilliant messianic fervour rather than ghostly ponderousness.

McCowen plays the first a where he is the uninvited guest, a note of quirky impishness; a suppressed manic laugh sudden breaks out when he reassures a deserted Edward that he is ground for hope his wife will return. He is even madly mischievous, tipping his hat over his br like Teddy Knox playing Ph Marlowe as he exits by the serv staircase. But he is even in remarkable in the second

curling up on his own psychic's couch in comic long barking ferociously at his pati and giving to Eliot's descriptio bourgeois marriage a force lines don't inherently contain: is a good life," shouts McCowen's atonement and, on herd it is Mr McCowen who lets forth of exultation. It is a perform that humanises an unpalat philosophy.

Brian Vahay's design intrigly suggests the Chamberlains have hired the Vorticists to do interior decoration and De production does its damn (with Sheila Allen's Lavinia, by preppers) to play up Eliot's affirming qualities. Unfortun that flies in the face of a enthralled by sin, guilt atonement.



# Philosophers and pastrycooks

**LITTLE GERMANY: Exile and Asylum in Victorian England, by Rosemary Ashton (Oxford, £17.50).**

KARL MARX'S life in London, where he settled for good in 1848, is part of Europe's and Asia's historical lore. The family's squalid poverty in their first lodgings in Chelsea, Leicester Square and Soho, the deaths of several of their children at an early age, the grimly passionate pursuit of economic knowledge for the sake of political power which kept Marx at his desk in the Reading Room of the British Museum — all these have been described so often and in such detail that to the story of what Marx called "the sleepless night of exile," nothing new is now likely to be added; and the same is true of those countless acts of generosity, loyalty, and patience with which Friedrich Engels, in charge of his father's Manchester factory, again and again came to the family's rescue.

What Dr Ashton has written is a rich and occasionally somewhat breathless account of the lives of the many German refugees who came to England in the 1840s, mainly after the fiasco of the Frankfurt Parliament in 1848-49, and whose lives form a background to early Marxism's heroic saga. They came from all parts of Germany, but mainly from bureaucracy-ridden Prussia, and they came from all walks of life. Some were Republican, others belonged to the Democratic League of All Nations, some were pan-European Catholic, others left-Hegelian, cosmopolitan, or German nationalist; the proletarians among them, especially in the Communist League, came closer to the social and political realities of English working class life than did the

intellectual. But they were mainly middle-class "bourgeois" by background, with a few artisans, one or two aristocrats, as well as "the mad, the desperate and the swindlers" of the lumpenproletariat. ("As a foreigner with a fiddle moving from place to place," wrote one of them, "you just cannot scrape even a bare existence," his daily takings were less than one shilling and sixpence.)

The parts of London they settled in reflected their economic fortune: when Marx had to flee from his creditors, he went to Camberwell where there was a large colony of wealthy German businessmen. Engels in Manchester and Georg Weerth (nowadays read as the DDR's great white hope of socialist realism) in Bradford did much to alleviate poverty among those who

By J. P. Stern

ventured out north. Most of them made a living of sorts, some as clerks and teachers of music or languages, some as freelance journalists and doctors. Those who started businesses usually went bankrupt. The tailors, pastrycooks, the furriers among them fared a good deal worse than the intellectuals. Few of the women — the wives and governesses to whom Dr Ashton's best chapter is devoted — survived the ordeal without deep emotional upsets. The benefits didn't all go one way. Contemptuous of the taste with which concerts were composed, the founders of the Halle Orchestra did a lot to improve English musical culture. At one end of the educational scale the exiles introduced the Froebel Kindergarten, at the other end they brought new subjects into the curriculum of University College, London, and into the monthly journals.

Why did they come to England? John Stuart Mill's On Liberty,

published in 1859, provides some of the answers. England, to most of them, meant penury and deprivation, but it also meant the one country whose first political concern was with "the nature and limits of the power which can legitimately be exercised by society over the individual." They rallied against the English class system, against the tyranny of custom and public opinion and the Victorian hypocrisy (which the Marxes fully shared), and they have some conception of liberty, and set some value on it, but the very ideal of equality is strange and offensive to them. They do not dislike to have too many people above them as long as they have some below them. Yet those bewildered foreigners also knew that (as one of Marx's more spirited opponents put it) they had found asylum in "the only country that has never expelled a refugee" — and those juries have never let themselves be dictated to by a foreign despot.

Dr Ashton is right in not wishing to impose uniformity where circumstances and reactions remain varied. Some of the exiles — the "scientific Hegelians" — were utterly convinced that the world spirit was about to "realise" itself as "a democratic republic in Germany" while others, less sanguine, took out permanent subscriptions to Moody's lending library. A few did go back after the German victory of 1871; most of them were content to stay and be absorbed in the life of the country and give up hope of a class revolution: Engels, George Eliot wrote in 1854, is "as slow to set on fire as a stomach." It's the sort of prosy remark they came to expect from their hosts.

Unsurprisingly, the only anti-Semitic remarks recorded in this volume come from Karl Marx.

## Is it safe . . . ?

By John Perkin

**TRAVELLERS' HEALTH, devised and edited by Richard Dawood (Oxford, £6.95).**

SUSPICIOUS overseas visitors, especially from the States, tend to raise smiles if they ask, "Is it safe to drink the water?" but for most parts of the world it's the first and most sensible question to ask. Outside Northern Europe, North America, and Australia "water from the public drinking supply is likely to be just a very dilute solution of sewage, and should be regarded as such unless known to be safe."

You might think you could kill all the bacteria by pouring into the water large quantities of whisky, but it can't be relied on. Ice is only as safe as the water it is made from. The best thing is boiling for at least five minutes. Rain water is likely to be purer than river, stream or pond water. Bottled or canned drinks are generally safe, but make sure they are opened in your presence and that the rims are clean and dry. Go easy on alcohol or you may dehydrate, especially in hot climates.

There are lots more practical tips and interesting information in this book. Snukes, for instance, even a severed head can bite — don't handle them, even if they are said to be harmless or look dead. Contrary to Hollywood, if you are bitten you will not die within seconds or minutes; lethal doses of

venom take hours, in some cases days, to work, generally plenty long enough to get treatment. Sucking the wound often does more harm than good, as does rubbing with snow in the case of frostbite — better to thaw out your feet on someone else's stomach, and that's a real test of friendship.

There are not many ailments, infections, diseases, or mishaps that go unmentioned in a book that would be very worthwhile reading for anyone going abroad, whether for a fortnight's holiday in Majorca or years away as an expatriate. There is good advice on where to go to get your jobs, what jobs to have, untanning (generally of no benefit to health, purely cosmetic), what to do if your car knocks somebody down (drive on and ask questions later — "In some African countries, such as Angola, motorists who accidentally kill pedestrians may be stoned to death if they stop the car to tend the victim"), the special needs of children abroad, sea-sickness, jet lag, even the need to mention to security officials that you have a penicillin (some detection machines could induce changes in the electrical components).

And, of course, how to get yourself back. Deception, mendacity, or even bribery may be the last resort for marooned, moribund travellers determined to escape their otherwise inevitable fate by taking the next flight home. "Only recommended in extreme cases."

# A saint who was on the make

By Peter Vansittart

**THOMAS BECKET, By Frank Barlow (Weidenfeld, £14.95).**

THE murder of Becket quickened the European imagination and provoked a spectacular thumaturgical and commercial pilgrimage. Popular myth saw Becket as the saintly champion of the spiritual, against crude kingcraft, sometimes adding nonsense about an exotic Saracen mother. Post-Reformation writers invented the "a Becket."

There is no evidence that he deliberately sought martyrdom. Henry seems not to have cursed this turbulent priest, though he did lament, "what miserable drones and traitors have I nourished and promoted in my household, who let their lord be presented with such shameful contempt by a low-born clerk?"

Becket's cult originated spontaneously from the poor and sick, to the initial disgust and subsequent corruption of the Canterbury establishment; his canonisation was largely due to the French court, with some political undertones, assisted by the posthumous discovery of worms and lice in his underclothes, proof of genuine austerity.

Sainthood can be a device for perpetually getting one's own terms, and sometimes seems relevant to Barlow's Becket. Neither he nor Henry II had great scholarship or sophistication, both were impressively brave and obstinate, and habitually over-reacted. Once, Henry hurled down his cap, tore off his clothes, and "as if squatting on a dung-hill," began chewing straw.

Becket seems more stylish than this, but more showy than creative. Also proud. Markedly egocentric, constantly on the make, he

enjoyed sport, war, sartorial ostentation, and, as Chancellor, with cheerful relations with Henry, helped repair the ravages left by Stephen. As Archbishop, with characteristic excess, he fought not only for clerical independence but for his local property rights.

He was tactless, obdurate, sometimes petty. He may have had to overcome inner doubts and accusations of pronounced worldliness and royal favouritism. Certainly he became more papal than the wily, pragmatic Pope, more self-righteous than his bishops, more arrogant even than Henry. He drove himself to extremes of austerity, not for martyrdom, but to win, though finally preferring to die fighting than achieve an undignified escape.

Some supporters sighed with relief at his death. Like many substantial figures, he had poor judgment. "It is likely that Thomas, by dramatising situations, by foreseeing the worst and making provisions for it, helped to bring it about."

Professor Barlow is adept at disentangling tortuous and prolonged issues, and interpreting incomplete, prejudiced and ambiguous documents, in an age when ritual curse and kiss, interdict and excommunication, were as effective as trade sanctions and violence. He does not claim omniscience. One detail could be a suggestive precedent: Henry crowned his heir as junior king, a division of authority with some impact on Becket's fortunes.

Pope Alexander's constantly reiterated reply to envoys bearing Henry's complaints against Becket shows diplomatic skill: "We are glad that the King is so good. May God make him even better."

## Turbulent priest

By Peter Hebblethwaite

**THE PRIEST WHO HAD TO DIE: The Tragedy of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, by Roger Boyes and John Moody (Gollancz, £10.95).**

FOUR-HUNDRED thousand people turned out for the funeral of this Polish priest who had been hauled out of a reservoir looking (says the Times part of the duo, no doubt) like a porpoise, flopped on the shore.

Lech Walesa was at the funeral and addressed the tortured corpse: "Rest in peace, Solidarity is alive because you have given your life for it." There was an argument about the funeral. The Polish Bishops, especially Cardinal Józef Glemp, the Primate, wished to have him quietly buried in his native village. His formidable mum, Marianna, had other ideas. She called upon the wet, large-eared priest and told him her son must be interred in Warsaw. She said: "A shepherd's place is among his sheep."

This is not the least astonishing episode in an admirable book, product of a collaboration between the Times and Time magazine. If it reads like the scenario for a film (David Puttnam art thou sleeping down below?), that is not because the authors needed to invent anything. They deal in a corrupt secret police, cover-and-cock-ups in high places, hints of sadism, dramatic ironies, inner-Church conflicts, heroic courage, and the faith that shifts mountains. Poland is an existentialist's (late 1940s model) dream: everyone seems to be

opting for life or death. Apart from Popieluszko himself, the hero, still happily alive, is his bodyguard-driver, Waldemar Chrostowski. Though gagged and handcuffed, the ex-parachutist threw himself out of the moving Fiat WAB 6031 bearing the priest to his death, thus ensuring that the murderer could not go unidentified. Nor did Popieluszko give in easily. He escaped from the boot of the car, but ran the wrong way.

The trial permits the authors to reconstruct the last hours of the priest in some detail; and they point out that it is so far the sole example of a secret police murder being investigated and punished in a Communist country. But they also dwell on the irony that this was a show trial in which the victim became the accused. The judge absurdly presented both the murderer, Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski and Father Popieluszko as rival "extremists" who merely got what they deserved.

The most moving moment in this moving book is when the news of Popieluszko's death finally reaches his congregation in the church of St Stanislaw Koska in Zolborz, a northern suburb of Warsaw. The priest stumbled over the Lord's prayer. "As we forgive others," he said, "as we forgive others, . . . as we forgive others."

He didn't quite break down. But Popieluszko's defence lawyer, Edward Wondol, explained after the verdict that his deceased client had been opposed to the death penalty, and moved that it be not applied in this case. So Piotrowski got a mere twenty-five years.

## Bridge

By Rixi Markus

QUEENS Tennis Club is celebrating its centenary this year, and among the special events was a two-day bridge contest, which was won quite comfortably by the Queens bridge team. On the second day, a team of journalists and experts was invited to join in, and I played for the first time with Victor Silverstone, an excellent international player from Scotland.

I enjoy forming a new partnership. I enjoy getting to know each other's style in certain situations and, not surprisingly, we improved our understanding considerably during the second half of the day.

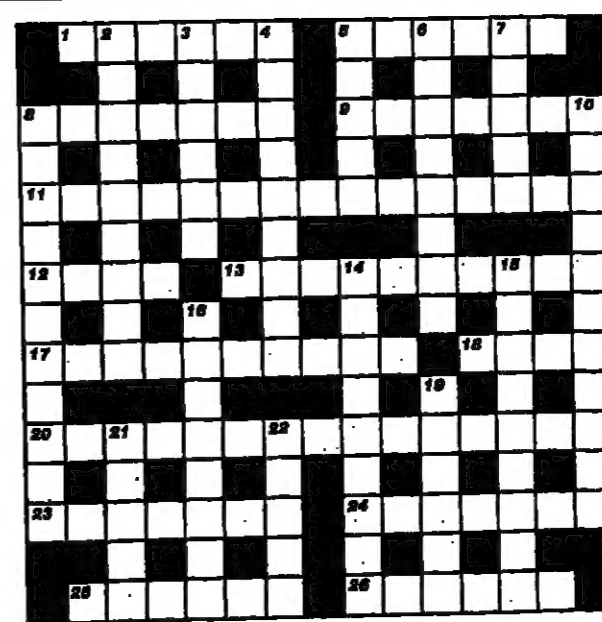
Here is a hand which I particularly enjoyed. North dealt with North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 9 7 5 2	♠ A 8 6	♠ A K Q J 8 3	♠ 5
♥ K J 3	♥ A K Q J 8 3	♥ 4	♥ 4 3
♦ A Q 9 8	♦ A 8 6	♦ A K Q J 8 3	♦ 5
♣ Q J 10 3 2	♣ A 8 6	♣ A K Q J 8 3	♣ 4 3
♠ 10 6 4	♠ A 8 6	♠ A K Q J 8 3	♠ 5
♥ A 7	♥ A 8 6	♥ A K Q J 8 3	♥ 4
♦ A 10 2	♦ A 8 6	♦ A K Q J 8 3	♦ 5
♣ K 7 6 4	♣ A 8 6	♣ A K Q J 8 3	♣ 4 3
♠ 10 9 6 4 2	♠ A 8 6	♠ A K Q J 8 3	♠ 5
♥ K 7 5	♥ A 8 6	♥ A K Q J 8 3	♥ 4

NORTH		EAST		SOUTH		WEST	
Mrs Marcus	1H	1S	1S	Silvane	1S	1S	1S
DBle(1)	3H	5D(2)	1S	DBle(1)	3H	5D(2)	1S
NB	5H	DBle	NB	NB	5H	DBle	NB
NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB

(1) Having passed at my first turn, I was anxious to compete in the minor suits on the second round. An overall of INT would have shown a hand containing fewer high card points but greater length in the minors.

(2) This was an excellent bid by Victor. As you will see, 5D would have been unbeatable on the North-South cards. East dropped a trick in the play to concede 500 in 5H doubled, but it made very little difference to his result on the board. No other North-South pair had reached 5D, and a number of East-West pairs had been allowed to bid and make 4H. When he asked for my opinion, I suggested to East that he should have opened either 2H or 4H: 1H was likely to open the door to intervention by the opponents.



By ARAUCARIA

- ACROSS**
1. Duck needs escort (6)
  2. Insect sounds like invalid girl (6)
  3. Crocus giving spice to start of spring with endless indignity (7)
  4. 11. Most of 19, line 1: condition leading to 19 (2, 5, 2, 3, 4, 2, 4)
  5. Count of topping and tailing almost (4)
  6. Desire cards in place of cars? (10)
  7. Dams bust during fire by old man at school (10)
  8. One goes to nothing from sixth in the spectrum (4)
  9. Dely M.O. when sick during sonata, Omar's favourite, always full? (4, 2, 2, 7)
  10. Financial nucleus for home and 5 down? (4-3)
  11. Irregular road to protect? (7)
  12. Singular, little county, inky; that's intricate! (8)
  13. Athlete needs mail for bean (6)

## Chess

By Leonard Barden

Q3, R at Q2, P at Q3 and K-B4. Mate in two.

1. K-R8 P-N 2 P-N, or if K-N, 2 R-K4, or if R-P 2 R-K8, or if R-R1 2 N-N7, or if P-B5 2 N-K4. Other king moves fail to RxP pinning the rook.

BRITISH international chess in recent years has become excessively concentrated in London and the South-East. Major events elsewhere, the Cleveland grandmaster tournaments and Manchester's Benedicline, ceased between the mid 1970s and 1983; but the South East during August 1986 alone will stage the world title match, the Kleinwort Greaveson British Championship, the Commonwealth Open and the Lloyds Bank Masters.

There seems little realistic prospect of changing this trend, and BCF officials have made the best of the situation by promoting less costly weekend events in the regions. Last month Nigel Short won the Joshua Tetley quickplay at Leeds, while in September, Swansea will host the British Isles Open.

The swing to the South-East has shifted the balance of strength at county and club level. Southern teams have won the national club championship eight years out of nine, while the inter-county title has gone to Middlesex or Kent seven years out of eight.

These two heavyweight counties met in the final of the 1986 championship last month. The 32 players had an average grade of 210, and more than half of them also had international FIDE ratings. Battle proved close, with Middlesex scraping home 9½-7½; while the Black pieces scored a remarkable 9-4 winning margin over White.

On top board the reigning British champion displayed his tactical skills against our newest IM, aged 18. Neil McDonald (Kent) — GM Jonathan Speelman (Middlesex) Reti Opening (inter-county final 1986)

1 N-K3 P-Q4 2 P-K3 P-Q3 3 B-N5 4 B-P4 P-K3 5 P-P K-P2

Black has chosen a solid defence to the Reti, barricading the long diagonal against White's KN2 bishop. Here B-PxP7 allows 6 Q-R4 ch. White should now continue 6 N-K5 when 6... B-K3 7 P-Q4 B-Q3 8 B-B4 N-K2 9 N-Q3 would prevent Black's active piece formation of the game.

6 Q-Q2 7 P-Q3 B-Q3 8 B-B4 P-K4 9 P-K4 P-P 10 P-K4 P-P 11 P-P B-N 12 BxP-R5 13 B-B4 Bx8 14 PxB N-QB4

Black has the initiative, but here 14... N-KN3 is more accurate.

15 Q-B4 Q-Q8 16 QxN Qx8 17 Q-K3 Q-R4 18 P-B5

Black has the initiative, but here 14... N-KN3 is more accurate.

15 Q-B4 Q-Q8 16 QxN Qx8 17 Q-K3 Q-R4 18 P-B5

Black has the initiative, but here 14... N-KN3 is more accurate.

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